

the chronicle



Giant IMI site to create jobs for thousands

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Super sisters hunt beauty pageant titles

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A-level results joy for teenagers

TEENAGERS at schools in Walsall were all smiles today with many even left surprised with their A-level success.

Pupils at Shelfield Academy and Queen Mary's High were among those who finding out how they fared today.

Jennie Joyce, aged 18, achieved an A* in art, B in media studies and C in information community technology. She is going to Wolverhampton University to study fine art. Jennie, of Mill Road, Pelsall, said: "I spent quite a while revis-

ing, but it was a bit of a shock as I didn't expect these results." Danielle Sears, of Lodge Road, Shelfield, achieved two Cs in English language and philosophy and a distinction star in sport.

Spanish

She will now go to Birmingham University to read history and philosophy. The 18-year-old said: "It is a relief to get them."

Roseanne Chantiluke is heading to Oxford with two A*s in English language and literature

and French. The teenager from Kingstanding also gained an A in Spanish and will study languages. She said: "The results were better than I expected."

Philippa Mills gained Bs in psychology and music and a C in Spanish. The 18-year-old of Lichfield Road, Brownhills, is heading to the University of Derby to study primary education.

Sana Hannan got an A* in maths and three A's in biology, chemistry and physics.



Queen Mary's High School pupils, from left, Alice Rees, Beth Worrall, Jessica Gould-Robbins, Sana Hannan, Sian Spear, Imogen Macintosh, Martha Townrow, Philippa Mills, Durkiran Bassi and Roseanne Chantiluke celebrate

Primark and Co-op head for square

PRIMARK and Co-op are on in Walsall in autumn 2013 following the £30 million transformation of a town centre shopping area. Proposals to redevelop Old Square, creating at least 160 jobs were approved by council planners last week, and developers are now due to begin demolition work of the former Tesco store and other units at the start of next year.

The new development is set to create three new retail units, including a new two-storey Primark and a four-storey building that will be occupied by Mid Counties Co-op.

A third retail unit which could incorporate a restaurant, health and fitness centre or offices is also being considered.

Excited

Work on improving the top end of the town is already taking shape with the agreed demolition of the former music venue the Overstrand.

John Percy, from DTZ, the agents acting on behalf of the owners of Old Square Shopping Centre, said: "We are very excited about this development, and the granting of planning consent is another major milestone in moving the scheme on."

"Work has already started on the demolition of the former Overstrand restaurant, which is being met with universal support, and we look forward to starting the rest of the development works."

"This will be a fantastic project for the town," he added. Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "It's the latest chapter in wider investment in Walsall town centre and will see millions of pounds more of investment pumped in."

Seven drug dealers are locked up

SEVEN Walsall cocaine and heroin dealers have been locked up following a series of police raids.

They appeared at Birmingham Crown Court on Monday and were given sentences ranging from 18 months to five years after being caught in Operation Eliminate, which took place over three days in March and saw officers carrying out more than 20 raids.

Miss Emma Cutts, prosecuting, said undercover officers bought heroin and crack cocaine from dealers in Walsall town centre, meeting them regularly at spots including outside Paddy Power Bookmakers, in Bradford Street, at market stalls and at bus stops.

Duane Robinson, aged 27, of Rowlands Avenue, Bentley, admitted heroin and four charges of supplying crack cocaine. He was sentenced to two years in prison, with a three-year criminal anti-social behaviour banning him from parts of Walsall.

Gilles Mafuta, 22, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, admitted supplying crack cocaine and was jailed for two and a half years with a three-year Crasbo.

Craig Neary, 38, of Heathfield Lane, Darlaston, admitted three counts of supplying heroin and was jailed for five years.

Possessing

Ashley Taylor, 23, of Drayton Street, Walsall, admitted two charges of supplying crack cocaine. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison, with a Crasbo.

Dominic Ali, 20 of Mill Lane, The Butts, Walsall, admitted conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and was jailed for five years.

Kieran Weller, 19, of Herberts Park Road, Walsall, admitted conspiracy to supply cocaine and was locked up for five years.

Imran Wall, 25, of Dalkeith Street, Walsall, admitted being concerned in the supply of heroin, supplying heroin and possessing it. He was jailed for five years.

In June, 12 others received prison sentences totalling 37 years for supplying Class A drugs as part of Operation Eliminate.

Prepare family for the inevitable, £42,000 theft mother warned

TELL THE KIDS YOU'RE GOING TO BE JAILED

A WILLENHALL mother of four was due in court today (Thursday) to be jailed for stealing more than £42,000 from bank customers. A week ago Selina Watters wept as a Wolverhampton Crown Court judge told her to go home, put her affairs in order and tell her children that she was going to be sent to prison.

Christopher Rodwell, defending Watters, appealed for time for her to make arrangements. He said: "When I advised her about the likely sentence it was something that she was not expecting. I would ask that the case be adjourned to allow her to prepare for the custodial sentence."



Tearful Selina Watters admitted stealing from Barclays Bank customers

Judge John Warner told Watters at last Thursday's hearing: "I am not going to sentence you now."

"I am going to allow some time so you can try to put your affairs in order and sort out your family arrangements."

"These are very serious offences and you must prepare yourself for a custodial sentence of some period."

Fearful

The 35-year-old former Barclays Bank personal banker from Bradley Drive, Willenhall, worked at branches in Queen Street, Wolverhampton, and Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall, and has four children aged 11, eight, three and one.

She pleaded guilty to eight charges of theft from cus-

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tomers committed between January 2009 and March last year. The offences involve a total of £42,031 and are thought to have first come to light while Watters was away from work on maternity leave.

Nicholas Smith, prosecuting, offered no evidence on a further charge alleging a £22,800 fraud and she was formally found not guilty.

Judge Warner gave her unconditional bail for a week until today's hearing.

He warned Watters: "I have no doubt that you are fearful of what is going to happen, but if you do not turn up then you will be making a bad situation worse."

Traders told to go

A MARKET trader who has run a stall in Walsall town centre for 47 years has been turfed out by the council over a rain sheet which protects his stock.

David Sumner sacked his two staff, including his wife Jayne, after having his licence revoked.

Walsall Council claims the sheet was "affecting visibility" to the nearby Body Shop store and it had no option.

Mr Sumner, aged 67, said: "It's devastating, especially for the girls I employed. People are ringing up and asking us when we are coming back."

"It's diabolical after 47 years of trading." The Body Shop said it had no issue with Mr Sumner's plastic sheet.



Jayne and David Sumner outside their Park Street stall

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Habitual thief is sentenced to prison term

AN HABITUAL shoplifter was told he was a "pest to society" after appearing before magistrates twice in a week for stealing from stores in Walsall.

Lee Jason Mills, aged 29, was jailed for four weeks to be served concurrently with a previous two-month sentence handed down earlier this month. Mills admitted criminal damage at Tesco, St Paul's Street, Walsall, on July 2. He was caught breaking open a security box covering an X-Box computer game disc. He also pleaded guilty to theft of two bottles of whisky worth £45 from Asda, in George Street, on August 1.

Recalled

He further admitted attempted theft of Rimmel foundation worth £69 from J. Doctor Pharmacy, in Churchill Road, Bentley, on July 15. Mills, of Wilkes Avenue, Bentley who had been on prison licence, was given a two-month term by Walsall magistrates on August 5 for similar offences. He had also been recalled to prison.

For criminal damage, Mills was jailed for four weeks, for theft of the whisky two weeks and for attempted theft, a further two weeks to run concurrently.

New club to be talk of the town

TOWNSFOLK in Walsall can talk about local and national issues at a new club launched by Walsall Leather Museum.

The Conversation Club will meet monthly with the next get together on September 20 between 10.15am to 11.15am. Refreshment is provided.

The cost is 50p per person with 20 places available to book from David Mills on 01922 721153.

Group receives boost

A WALSALL-based group that helps children with Downs Syndrome has been given a valuable piece of technology after they were nominated for a donation.

Staff from Pertemps People Development Group (PPDG) nominated the Proud group for its Give As You Earn Scheme. Funds paid in by

staff each month were used to buy an iPad.

Proud was set up in 2004 by Jo Yarnall and other parents when her eldest daughter Hannah was just two.

"We meet on a monthly basis for coffee and chat and we all get the chance to talk to other parents about any issues we may have," said Jo.

Doctor is struck off

A WALSALL doctor who signed off medical exams on taxi drivers without checking their records has been struck off.

The medic was found to have completed forms for 41 patients inaccurately. Dr David Dallow Pottinger signed forms at three GP surgeries, the General Medical Council found.

His name has now been erased from the medical register.

Investigations began when Worcester City Council complained about

examinations on Hackney carriage and private hire taxi drivers which were carried out by Pottinger, of Wilenhall, a hearing was told.

It later emerged the doctor, believed to be in his 60s, didn't check medical records of drivers. The probe centred around forms completed at Spring Gardens, Haresfield, and St Martin's Gate surgeries, all in Worcester. Pottinger did not attend the hearing but told the council his examinations were "perfectly competent and satisfactory".

Staff in parking space battle

UP TO 300 staff will be scrambling for less than 100 car parking spaces at the new £6.5 million Walsall Housing Group offices, it has emerged.

Bosses have scrapped plans to create an extra car park when the new premises open in Littleton Street this winter.

There will only be around 80 spaces available, for staff and visitors, meaning scores of workers will have to find spaces elsewhere when they transfer over in December.

Hundreds of glass panes are to be removed from the building after patches of mist formed.

Gary Fulford, WHG chief executive, said: "We're currently agreeing final details of the replacement glazing with our contractor, John Sisk & Son, and expect it to be installed towards the end of October."

"Replacing the glazing has had no impact on the schedule. The building and internal fit-out will be completed by the end of November."

Council in the swim over rise in centre use

VISITOR numbers at council-run leisure centres in the Black Country are on the up after improved facilities and attractive membership deals encourage more people to fight the flab.

Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Stafford councils have all reported a rise in people using their leisure centres.

Walsall Council has revealed it has seen an extra 60,000 visits to its leisure centres in 2010/11 compared to the same time the previous year, while Dudley Council has seen the number of people visiting its leisure centres increase from 1,182,000 in 2008/9 to 1,340,000 in 2010/11, a rise of 13 per cent.

Sandwell Leisure Trust has attracted 1.9 million visits in 2010/11 and has seen increased attendances to gym, fitness and swimming classes. Stafford Council saw a rise of 26 per cent on its 2009/10 figures as 98,146 people walked through the doors in 2010/11.

Activity

Councillor Anthony Harris, cabinet member for leisure at Walsall Council, said they were focused on improving the health of their residents.

He said: "This demonstrates that with improved facilities at Oak Park and Gala, positive marketing and sessions that the customer wants, that attendance will continue to rise."

Catherine Barrett, spokeswoman for Sandwell Leisure Trust, said: "Increasing attendances and participation in sport and physical activity is a priority. Attendances at fitness gyms increased by 14,453 and fitness classes by 6,754. The swimming instruction programme generated an extra 24,346 visits from the previous year."

Despite some councils seeing a rise in visitors to leisure centres, Cannock Chase Council has seen its numbers drop. In 2010/11, it recorded that 496,881 people visited compared to 537,728 in 2009/10, a drop of eight per cent. Wolverhampton City Council was unable to provide figures.

Over 50s team to host a fundraiser

A GROUP of over 50s are holding a charity night next week to raise money for sufferers of prostate cancer.

The Gathering is holding the event in aid of Everyman Cancer at Stan Ball Centre, Abbots Street, Bloxwich, on Saturday, September 3.

The evening, which features local singers and artists, will start at 7.30pm and the main acts are Mervyn Jones who plays organ and Jack Williams who plays the xylophone.

Tickets cost £2 and are available from Albert Hughes on 01922 693350, Blakenall Information Centre, and the Stan Ball Centre.

Charity proms night

A FUNDRAISING Last Night of the Proms concert takes place in Walsall next month. It is being organised by the Rotary Club of Walsall.

The event in Lichfield Street on September 17 includes the Shelfield Male Voice Choir, Walsall Symphony Orchestra and pianist Warren Mailley.

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TRIBUTES have been made to a veteran butcher who collapsed and died after being stung by a wasp in his shop. Alan Foster, aged 72, died on the way to Walsall Manor Hospital.

Mr Foster became a butcher at the age of 15 and his shop, Alan Foster Butchers, in High Street, Aldridge, has been open for 26 years.

He died suddenly on Saturday, August 14, and leaves behind his long-term partner. Nephew Paul Foster, who is to carry on the family business, said: "The whole family are just devastated. We are all in shock."

"The customers are devastated too, they keep coming in and saying how sorry they are. The shop is still open, it is business as usual and I will be carrying it on - it's what he would have wanted."

Mr Foster prided himself on superb customer service and top-quality produce, winning awards for his bacon and sausages, his nephew said.

His high standards ensured he had scores of loyal customers, who continued to visit from all over the region year after year.

Terrible

The butchers made a name for itself with its home-cured bacon, which was named the best in the West Midlands by the British Pig Executive.

Aldridge Central & South ward's Councillor John Murray said: "It is a terrible tragedy. Alan Foster Butchers has had a presence in Aldridge for as long as I can remember."

"While other businesses have come and gone, Alan Foster has always remained."

"Mr Foster will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He did a lot for the Aldridge community and this will come as a shock to so many people."

The Black Country Coroner, Robin Bailmain, has opened and adjourned an inquest on Mr Foster.



Popular Aldridge butcher Alan Foster spent 55 years in the trade

Raise a glass to barmaid, 102



Clara Reynold marks her 102nd birthday at Ash Grange Nursing Home

IT WAS party time for former Walsall barmaid Clara Reynold as she celebrated her 102nd birthday.

The great-grandmother is still continuing to be a big hit with other residents at Ash Grange Nursing Home, in Blakenall, as she regularly takes time to knit scarves for them.

Clara, who also enjoys wordsearch puzzles, worked at the former Haymakers Arms in Blue Lane in Walsall

for 35 years and carried on pulling pints until she was 70.

The centenarian, who also has two children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, previously lived in Francis Street, Birchills, and was married to Harry who died aged 50.

Clara celebrated her birthday on Sunday, August 14, at a gathering with family and friends.

Open day at foundry

A WALSALL foundry will open its doors to mark Heritage Open Day.

Visitors will be able to tour Chamberlin & Hill Castings Ltd for free on September 10. Guests will include Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir who will perform in the lobby.

Chamberlin's community liaison officer David Morgan said in recent years the annual event had been oversubscribed and tours were subject to application and availability.

To book call 01922 721411 extension 121.

Visitors must wear sturdy shoes and will be provided with hard hats.

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Crackdown on nuisance bikes

NUISANCE off-road bikers are being reminded their vehicles could be crushed as part of a police crackdown that has already seen three bikes destroyed as riders are targeted in Pheasey and Great Barr.

Officers are looking at mini motorbike users who plague the streets in these areas.

West Midlands Police said they were taking a zero-tolerance approach to the problem.

Officers are taking action

after concerned residents got in touch, highlighting Doe Bank Lane and Netherhall Park as particular trouble spots.

Seized

As part of the crackdown, anyone found to be riding a bike on public land without insurance will have their vehicle seized and possibly crushed. So far, seven bikes have been taken by officers, with three being destroyed.

Sgt Andy Middleton, from Streetly and Pheasey neighbourhood policing team, said: "We are continuing to tackle the illegal use of off-road bikes in the area. Not only do they cause noise, nuisance and damage to the land, but they are often ridden in a dangerous way. Often we find it is young males riding these bikes, who have little or no driving experience."

To report the problem, call police on 0345 113 5000.

TWO branches of Barclays bank are to close down, merge and relocate to an empty shop in Walsall town centre. The move will result in a new flagship branch in Park Street, with one job being created.

Branches in The Bridge and Lichfield Street will close, with all staff relocating to the new premises. A total of 26 staff will be based in the new bank in Park Street following the closure of the others on November 18.

Bosses insist there will be no job losses when the new site opens within an empty Zavvi music shop on November 21.

Instead, an extra personal banker position is being created.

Officials have not revealed the cost of the new branch but promised there would be "significant investment" to provide better facilities for customers.

Karen Kuciers, of Barclays in Walsall, said: "On November 21

we will be opening a new flagship branch on Park Street. This new branch will include the latest technology.

"The decision was taken to open a branch in Park Street due to the changing demographics of the town centre."

"There will be no job losses as a result of the opening of this new branch. In fact, we will be providing an additional personal banker in the new branch."

Helicopter ambulance scouting for donors

MIDLANDS Air Ambulance has set itself a challenge to recruit 21,000 new regular donors in time for its 21st anniversary, and is citing the case of a nine-year-old Willenhall boy.

Joshua Birchill suffered a horrific road accident on his bike at Easter while visiting his father in Stourbridge and was airlifted to Birmingham Children's Hospital, where he has spent several months recovering from his injuries.

Joshua's dad John said: "Response time is crucial with brain injuries and if we had made the journey by land ambulance I dread to think what his lasting injuries would have been."

"Midlands Air Ambulance genuinely saved his life, giving Joshua a second chance."

The '21k at 21' appeal is looking for new donors in Walsall and Willenhall to sign up to a regular giving platform with the charity to help continue funding the three air ambulances that operate across the region in time for the 21st anniversary next May.

Busiest

Midlands Air Ambulance answers an average of 10 calls per day from its three bases.

Director Hanna Sebright said: "We know that the public really value the service and will support us as we look to sign up 21,000 regular donors in time for our 21st anniversary year."

"Regular giving – at just £5 a month – from our target of new donors would be a significant contribution towards the £6 million a year we need to run one of the country's busiest air ambulance services."

Anyone wishing to sign up can visit www.midlandsairambulance.com or call 0800 840 2040.

The charity is also looking for cyclists to take part in a ride from air RAF Cosford to Strensham air base in Worcestershire on September 3.

Email alison.blakeway@midlandsairambulance.com or call 0800 840 2040 for more information.

Council in £7k trial of pathway product

TRIALS to improve the green credentials of Walsall's footpaths are being carried out in the town.

A product called FoamMaster is a recycled asphalt made by Tarmac and is being used in Bridgeman Street as part of a £7,000 trial funded by Tarmac.

Cabinet member for transport and environment Councillor Tom Ansell said: "Walsall is always looking for innovative new products that are beneficial to the environment."

"Using FoamMaster will reduce the amount of asphalt we send to landfill in line with the council's commitment to reduce our carbon footprint."

More police patrols

POLICE have stepped up patrols around garage areas in Walsall after yobs were seen loitering there.

Householders living by garages in Cranfield Place, Pleck, have complained that youths are causing a nuisance in evenings. Officers patrols are being increased to stamp out the problem.

First-class bar and cafe for old mail office

A NEW bar, cafe and restaurant complex is earmarked for the site of a former Royal Mail sorting office in Brownhills, creating scores of jobs.

The building will be demolished and replaced as part of the ambitious development, expected to cost hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Leisure Automatic is proposing the development on the corner of High Street and Church Road which is due to bring at least a dozen jobs to the town.

The new building would be split into two leisure uses either side of an atrium area as part of the plans. One unit is earmarked as a bar and restaurant with the other a cafe.

Courtyard

A gateway leading to an outdoor courtyard in front of the two-storey building would be created.

The total number of full and part jobs which would become available if approved by council chiefs have not been revealed at this stage. However, it is expected to be more than a dozen.

Agent Christopher Timothy, on behalf of the applicants, said: "It will be a significant investment in Brownhills and is good for the area. We have been in discussions with Walsall Council over the last 12 months and would hope the application goes before the planning committee in September."

Home-starters for struggling families

HOME starter packs have been launched for families in Walsall who are struggling to make ends meet.

The packs which help people equip their home with essential goods, have been launched in Bentley by the Old Hall People's Partnership.

The packs are crammed full of items including new bedding, crockery and small kitchen equipment, and are aimed at families that cannot afford to buy the necessities.

It is hoped the packs will complement the Pass It On project which supplies families in need with affordable items of donated household furniture.

First time tenants allocated properties in the Bentley or Darlaston areas and in receipt of benefits are eligible to be considered for a home starter pack.

For more information, call Denise Birkett on 01922 474684 or Rob Elliott on 01922 474682.

Gasmen shut road

PELSALL's Vicarage Road and Fordbrook Lane are closed to traffic between Norton Road and Coronation Road until Monday, August 29. Work is being carried out by Gas Alliance on behalf of National Grid Gas.

Stage set for actors to party, 50 years on

Tucked away in Aldridge is a little-known gem which stands as a testament to what a community can achieve through passion and hard work. Aldridge Youth Theatre is now celebrating 50 years since it set up in an old school in Rushall.

Today the theatre proudly stands in its own purpose-built facility in Noddy Park Road, Aldridge, after years of determined fundraising, and is said to be the only youth drama group in the country with its own theatre.

The group's beginnings were as a youth drama group known as The Brownhills Travelling Theatre in 1950 led by Sylvia Cartwright.

It was Miss Cartwright's inspiration and driving force that led to the realisation of a theatre devoted to and run by youngsters with help from drama-inspired adults in-

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cluding founder members Joy and Ron Cooke. The group was granted a 10-year lease on a derelict school in Lichfield Road, Rushall, which was converted into a small theatre and opened by Dame Sybil Thorndyke in 1961 as a base for Staffordshire Youth Theatre. The premises were vacated in 1971 when the lease expired. Theatre publicity officer Linda Symonds said: "Hopes were high for a new purpose-built theatre in Aldridge, but the years that followed were difficult and frustrating."

Terrific

The Ministry of Education agreed to fund 50 per cent of the building, while Aldridge Urban District Council agreed to pay 25 per cent if the group raised the other 25 per cent. But due to inflation over the years, the group had to make up the difference and raise £19,000 towards the £70,000 building.

April 1, 1974, was the start of a new era as Aldridge became part of Walsall Met-

ropolitan Borough, so the group was renamed Aldridge Youth Theatre.

The new building, with a 158-seater auditorium, was opened on October 9, 1977, by actor Bernard Hepton, known for Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, Mansfield Park and The Woman In Black.

Mrs Symonds, a volunteer at Noddy Park Road for more than 20 years, said: "Aldridge Youth Theatre is possibly unique in that it is a voluntary organisation which owns its own purpose-built theatre."

"It is lovingly cared for by our members and adult helpers – we have to raise all our own funds to maintain the building."

"It's fantastic, a terrific facility for young people and for Aldridge."

The theatre will be putting on Hobson's Choice from Thursday to Saturday, September 22-24 at 7.30pm, plus a 2.30pm matinee on the last day.

For tickets at £6 or £7, call 01922 458615.



TV actor Bernard Hepton opened the theatre in 1977



Harold Brighouse's 1916 play Hobson's Choice, staged at Aldridge Youth Theatre in 1958



Aldridge Youth Theatre publicity officer Linda Symonds with a scrapbook covering a dramatic last half-century of the group



Pat Harrison chats to TV actor Peter Clayton in 1958

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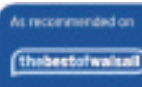
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Jobs bonanza on way with Cameron's enterprise zone

A NEW enterprise zone announced for Walsall could create thousands of jobs by attracting new companies to the town. The 35-acre site of former the former IMI James Bridge copper works at Darlaston has been earmarked.

Awarding the two Black Country zones to Darlaston and to Wolverhampton's i54 was a blow to West Bromwich and Dudley, however.

Under the proposals outlined last week by Prime Minister David Cameron, the i54 and Darlaston will offer a package of tax breaks, high-speed internet, minimal planning regulations and a five-year, £275,000 discount on business rates.

The sites were proposed by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), a joint body of council leaders and business figures set up to replace the doomed regional super-quango Advantage West Midlands.

It comprises the four Black Country council leaders and senior figures from businesses in the area. The enterprise zone is its first major decision and has been the subject of debate for five years.

The LEP had originally asked the Government for four sites. In addition to the i54 and Darlaston the LEP wanted West Bromwich town centre and Brierley Hill's Waterfront and Harts Hill areas to be included.

The Government has chosen to concentrate on the two sites it sees as the best bet for attracting businesses and help kick-start Britain's economy.

Mr Cameron said the sites would be "trailblazers" for prosperity throughout the country. Birmingham has already been earmarked.

"We are determined to do every-



Tim Hair, chief executive of Chamberlin, parent company of Walsall castings firm Chamberlin & Hill



LEP deputy chairman Mike Bird, leader of Walsall Council, served on the West Midlands Joint Committee

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thing we can do to make Britain the best place in the world to start and grow a business.

"Enterprise zones are a major step towards delivering this, cutting business taxes, easing planning restrictions and giving business the tools they need to invest and expand."

Chancellor George Osborne said the zones would create more than 30,000 new jobs by 2015.

The enterprise partnership predicted they would create up to 4,000 jobs in the region by 2015.

Stewart Towe, chairman of the LEP and group managing director of Smethwick manufacturing group Hadley Industries, said: "The i54 site is key to the future of the entire region. Its development will boost the entire supply chain into the region's engineering and manufacturing industry."

"The excellent motorway links at the i54 and Darlaston sites are vital and mean they will not be working in isolation. We estimate this will create up to 4,000 jobs directly but of course that does not include the supply chain. It is fantastic news which will stimulate growth in our area."

"This is a chance to put the Black Country back on the map for manufacturing."

Mr Towe said the zones would be most attractive to medium-large enterprises which are already established elsewhere.

Polluted

In Darlaston, the zone made up of two 50-acre parcels of land on either side of the M6, linked by a tunnel. The site on the south side is the former IMI James Bridge copper site and forms part of the major Phoenix 10 regeneration project.

Walsall Council's Tory leader, Councillor Mike Bird said: "This is great news for Darlaston, for Walsall and the Black Country. Today's announcement has the potential to create thousands of new jobs in the area and safeguard thousands of existing jobs."

Councillor Peter Bilson, deputy leader of Wolverhampton City Council, said he hoped it would secure Jaguar Land Rover's move to the i54. The zones come with radically simplified planning approaches using, for example, existing Local Development Order powers. These could come into effect to speed up proposals for a direct link between the i54 and the M54 motorway along its northern border. Jaguar Land Rover and its Indian parent company, Tata Motors, are believed to have been in talks with the Government for months over the possibility of building the plant in Wolverhampton.

While considerable work is needed to get the Darlaston site ready for occupation, the i54 is already seeing construction work under way.



Walsall's Councillor Mike Bird, left, Wolverhampton's Councillor Peter Bilson, Local Enterprise Partnership chairman Stewart Towe and Walsall's Councillor Adrian Andrew on the 35-acre IMI James Bridge site at Darlaston

Although the LEP has played the lead role in selecting the enterprise zone sites, the actual day-to-day administration once they are up and running will fall to the local authorities – Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire councils. Full details on how they will be run is still not clear, but a string of benefits for businesses have been laid out.

In addition to the relaxed planning rules, reduction in business rates and broadband, the Government says it will work with the enterprise partnerships to provide tax breaks to make it easier for companies to invest in new plant and machinery where there is a strong focus on manufacturing.

The proposed breaks are also intended to support the long-term life of the zones, to avoid the problems under the original scheme in the 1980s when firms began to move out once the initial 10-year benefit programme came to an end.

But the good news for Wolverhampton and Walsall has been countered by gloom for Dudley and West Bromwich.

Dudley Council deputy leader Tim Wright said he was very disappointed that the bid had been rejected.

"The Enterprise Zone is a very welcome boost for the whole of the Black Country but it is a real shame that it will not be based in Dudley."

"This would have been a real boost to Dudley but we will now continue to work with our neighbours and look forward to the extra business this will bring to the Black Country."

At Sandwell Council, Labour leader Councillor Darren Cooper denied that West Bromwich missing out on an enterprise zone would be

damaging to the borough.

"This is not a blow under any circumstances. The four Black Country boroughs have been working closely together to bring these enterprise zones to the region."

"The Darlaston site is fantastic for development in the Black Country and if the Jaguar plant comes to Wolverhampton, as it looks like it will, knock-on effects will be felt."

Chris Kelly, head of the Keltruck Scania dealership group, said: "Local authorities need to work much more closely with business, and this is exemplified by what Henry Carver and the Wolverhampton Business Group have done, to insist the council there listened to businesses."

Strategic

"We can only hope that the LEP will fulfil this need in Sandwell and other local authorities who fail to properly bring business in to discuss strategic issues."

The South Kidderminster Business Park was one of 29 applications for the 10 zones, but also lost out.

Apart from Mr Towe, Councillor Cooper and Councillor Bird, the other LEP members are Councillor Roger Lawrence, Labour leader of Wolverhampton City Council; Tim Hair, chief executive of Chamberlin; Councillor Les Jones, Dudley Council's Tory leader; Peter Mathews, chairman and chief executive of Black Country Metals; Jason Wouhra, deputy chairman of East End Foods; Prof Ian Oakes, pro-vice chancellor of Wolverhampton University; and John McDonough, Carilion chief executive.



Jason Wouhra, above, deputy chairman of ethnic food importer East End Foods, of West Bromwich, and LEP chairman Stewart Towe, left, managing director of Hadley Industries, of Smethwick



Hundreds in fight to halt 'yet another off-licence'

MORE than 1,800 people have objected to an off-licence opening in a Walsall neighbourhood.

The new unit, Boozie Corner, is earmarked for Blakenall Heath, but worried residents say there is already a high number of shops selling alcohol in the area.

They say they are blighted by alcohol-related behaviour including vandalism, abuse and noise.

Michelle Kettles, a mother of two, wrote to Walsall Council objecting on the grounds that drunken yobs cause problems in the area.

Unpleasant

She said: "I have spoken to the community wardens and on several occasions had to ring the police as youths would congregate very loudly outside my house."

Anti-social behaviour is still a big problem in this area and yet another off-licence selling alcohol in the area would increase the problem and make life more unpleasant for her and her children, she added.

A petition of 1,850 signatures has been sent to Walsall Council objecting to the off-licence.

Blakenall ward's Councillor Ian Robertson has also objected on the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder, and protecting children from harm.

The shop would open from 8am to 10.30pm, seven days a week.

Applicant Sorinder Singh said under-age sales of alcohol would be prevented by displaying signs and by keeping a log book of all refused sales which could be inspected by police.

Metafin buys industrial site

A manufacturing site has been bought by a family-run Walsall business which has plans to relocate its factory and attract other businesses – bringing new jobs.

Metafin Group Holdings has bought the former Victor Works which dates back more than 100 years and was put on the market for £1.2 million last year.

The powder coating business in Green Lane is transferring the factory process to the former Stokes Forgings site, which stretches for more than an acre, around Northcote Street and Gladstone Street, Birchills.

Capital

The firm wants to carry out demolition work and create a metal hub which can be divided up into three light industrial units.

Metafin started with a working capital of £50 in 1974 and now has a multi-million pound turnover. It employs around 120 people from its current site.

A statement from Andrew Dukesell, agent, said: "The Victor Works has been recently bought by Metafin Group Holdings with a view to transfer the factory process from premises in Green Lane to the Victor Works site."

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Man, 27, is fined over dumping of rubbish

A WALSALL man who loaned his van to a friend has been fined £100 after it was then used to fly-tip.

Christopher Jones, aged 27, of Well Lane, Blakenall, was prosecuted by Walsall Council after a bed base, a mattress, part of a cot and plaster board was dumped on a disused rail line near Poplar Avenue, Bentley.

A householder saw Jones's van being used to dump the rubbish on February 17 last year and took a note of the registration plate before reporting it to the council.

The court heard the witness also had CCTV footage as evidence.

Waste

Jones appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week and admitted depositing controlled waste without an environmental permit. He had initially pleaded not guilty.

Glyn Whitehouse, defending, said: "We are not dealing with someone who has been found guilty of dumping toxic waste, or anything that's going to cause a general health hazard."

He said Jones hired out his van to an old school friend for a few days after being paid £100, but he did not know it would be used to fly-tip.

Jones was also ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and £500 towards prosecution costs.

Council axes the third day of Christmas

A THREE-day Christmas bank holiday break for thousands of council workers will be axed this year.

The move by Walsall Council means Sandwell will be the only authority in the region to allow the bonus day. Walsall Council says it wants staff at work after the Christmas Day and Boxing Day bank holidays to keep services open for taxpayers.

The move comes after bank holiday Tuesdays in spring and summer were scrapped earlier this year.

Discussions are now taking place with staff.

Available

A final decision about how it will impact the 7,500 strong workforce is due. It would bring Walsall in line with other authorities across the region.

Walsall finance chief Councillor Chris Towe said: "I want it in place this year so services that people need will be available when they should be."

"It is only right when people pay their council tax, that we should be there and open when they need us."

Councillor Towe said staff could still take the time off, but it would need to be booked as holiday.

Sandcastles a-building

YOUNG visitors to Walsall Museum can create their own fantasy sandcastles at a drop-in session running from 11am to 1pm today.

The event is suitable for children aged five to 12, and details are available by calling 01922 653116.

Traders hit back over site of town's market stalls

SHOPKEEPERS in a Walsall street are fighting plans to keep the town's market at its new site for even longer.

A businessman in Bradford Street said his trade has been hit since the 800-year-old market moved from its Digbeth base to The Bridge. It was

meant to be a temporary 12-month move. But later this year, council chiefs will seek an extension to planning permission to continue setting stalls up on The Bridge.

Gavin Thomas, of Toni & Guy in Bradford Street, is launching a petition against the extension. "Nothing

has happened in Digbeth yet and nobody is being told what is going on."

"The stalls are just three metres from the front of our shop which is having an impact because it is restricting the view to the front of the shops in Bradford Street, and it's making the area look messy."

The market move sparked controversy when it was first unveiled with some shops in the town centre voicing their displeasure.

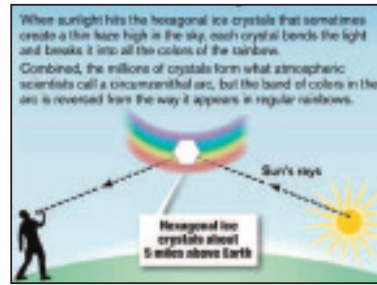
Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "The consultation will give everyone the chance to have their say on this proposal."



A typical photo showing a circumzenithal arc



Lauren Wright, aged seven, of Bloxwich



A diagram shows how the colourful arc is formed

Camera girl, 7, spots rare smile in the sky

OFFICIALLY, it's a circumzenithal arc. To the rest of us, it's an upside-down rainbow. Whatever you call it, it is an extremely rare spectacle that is rarely seen in the skies of Britain, and is usually confined to the North and South Poles.

One lucky family spotted an arc over their Walsall home – and were able to capture it on camera. The unusual sight was caught by quick-thinking seven-year-old Lauren Wright as she watched it with her parents in Bloxwich, Walsall.

Reverse rainbows are hard to spot moments, with people having to be in the right place at the right time to see one.

They are the result of freak atmospheric conditions caused by light shining through tiny ice crystals in the clouds, rather than through raindrops like normal rainbows.

Sunlight must shine at a specific angle through the clouds and the ice particles must be lined up directly together in the right direction to refract the light.

They are much brighter and more concentrated than a normal rainbow with the colours in reverse order, violet on top and red at the bottom.

The arcs usually vanish quickly because the cirrus clouds containing the ice crystals shift their position.

Unlike a traditional rainbow, the sky has to be clear of rain and low-level clouds for a circumzenithal arc to be seen.

Wonder

They only appear when sunlight shines at a specific angle through a thin veil of wispy clouds at a height of around 20,000 to 25,000 feet. At this altitude the cirrus clouds are made of tiny ice crystals.

John Hammond, forecaster for the Met Office, told the Express & Star: "You can get them at any time of year and it doesn't depend on rain."

"A few different things must be in place and the person seeing it must be at the right place at the right time. They generally don't last for very long. "Circumzenithal arcs are seen rela-

tively rarely in Britain because they can only be seen at the right combination of atmospheric conditions.

Visibility of these arcs can vary greatly with someone 10 miles away not being able to see it."

Young photographer Lauren, who attends Walsall's Busill Jones Primary School, spotted the arc with her mother Claire Robbins and father Stuart Wright.

They saw the upside-down rainbow on Saturday evening.

Ms Robbins, of Parker Street, Bloxwich, says: "My partner and daughter spotted it at 7.16pm."

"Stuart said he couldn't believe what he was seeing and shouted to me to have a look."

"It was only there for a couple of minutes. I've never seen anything like it."

The 36-year-old assistant manager for Superdrug said her daughter managed to take a few photos of the circumzenithal arc before it disappeared.

Miss Robbins adds: "It was really exciting but weird. It hadn't been raining at all and it was quite low in the sky."

Meteorologists say clouds must be convex to the sun to form a circumzenithal arc, with the ice particles lined up together in the right direction to refract the light.

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Quick-thinking schoolgirl Lauren Wright, aged seven, photographed an upside-down rainbow which appeared briefly over Bloxwich

This results in the sunlight bouncing off the ice crystals high in the atmosphere, sending the light rays back up and bending the sunlight like a glass prism into a spectrum of colour.

They are generally only seen in the Arctic Circle.

Known as a "smile in the sky", the last circumzenithal arc captured on film was in Leicestershire last month.

Antique dealer William Freeman, aged 35, caught a quick glimpse of an

arc in his back garden on a blazing summer's day.

"I had just finished dinner when I went outside and saw what appeared to be an upside-down rainbow," he said. "Everyone was stunned – I've never seen anything like it."

"It was a very bizarre sight on such a lovely sunny evening with no rain."

"I grabbed my phone and took a photo but within minutes it had completely disappeared. I feel very lucky to have seen this weather wonder and to have captured a picture of it."

Wheels in motion to build £60k cycle route

A CYCLE route is to be created in Shelfield, Walsall – boosting links with Rushall, Walsall Wood and Brownhills and giving youngsters a safe route to school.

The £60,000 path will link Bridge Road in Shelfield with Route 5 of the National Cycling Network, which runs north through Walsall Wood and Brownhills and south through Rushall and Walsall to West Bromwich.

Half the funding has been awarded by the Sustrans charity, while the other half has been matched by Walsall Council.

Pelsall ward's Councillor Marco Longhi said: "I support anything to encourage people to take up a lifestyle decision like cycling to work instead of driving."

"This is one of those schemes where, for at least part of their journey, it's helping them to do that in a safer way. "These schemes need to have a lifetime management plan, so as long as that's in place, it's a good scheme."

"I would like to cycle more, but the roads are simply intimidating," Councillor Longhi added.

Suitable

Councillor Tom Ansell, Walsall Council cabinet member for transport, said that the path would be surfaced to be suitable for cyclists, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

He said: "This is excellent news as there are several schools in this area and it forms part of the commitment by both the council and Sustrans to improve safety and encourage children to cycle or walk to school."

Consultation with residents is due to start to see views before work starts.

It is expected that the scheme will increase the number of pupils cycling to school, improving accessibility to Rushall JMI School, Shelfield Academy, Greenfield Primary and St Francis Catholic Primary.

The scheme would also improve links between Pelsall and Walsall town centre.

999 call to shire horse stuck fast

A SHIRE horse had to be rescued by firefighters after getting bogged down on muddy land in Aldridge.

Firefighters went to Stubbers Green Road last Wednesday after the giant horse's worried owner called for assistance.

Crews from Aldridge, Bloxwich and Perry Barr attended, rescuing the animal with lines and straps in about 30 minutes. The horse, which measured 16 hands high, was unhurt.

Roadworks starting

TWO weeks of roadworks were starting in Pelsall today.

The scheme, to improve the area's gas mains, will result in Vicarage Road and Fordbrook Lane will be closed Norton Road and Coronation Road for two weeks. Yesterday a three-week scheme started in Aldridge. Whetstone Lane will be closed from Weston Crescent to Churchill Road for 24 hours a day.

The average speed for borough motorists is now just 19.1mph.

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Junction safety fear over car sales plan

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A BUSY Bloxwich junction could be made even more risky for drivers if a former pub site is allowed to be transformed into a used car sales business, a councillor has said.

The car sales yard will open on the site of former Leamore pub The Black Horse, under the proposal. The pub was bulldozed amid concerns it would be targeted by arsonists and drug users. But the application to change the use of the site to a used car sales yard has been recommended for approval at a recent planning committee meeting.

Around 30 cars would be on show at any one time at the pub site, on the corner of Harden Road and Bloxwich Road.

It was brought to the committee by ward councillor Ian Robertson, who raised concerns about the busy junction becoming dangerous for motorists with more cars pulling on and off the site.

Pressure

"With more cars going in and out of there, we have to be careful. It will put enormous pressure on the junction."

"Council officers have promised to do some changes to the lights. What I would really like is to have a yellow box there."

The pub, which dates back to Edwardian times but ceased trading in January 2010, was added to Walsall Council's list of historically interesting buildings just two years ago.

ASK Motors has applied to use the site for car sales for five years while further redevelopment proposals are considered. Tom Krothe, who runs ASK Motors and also has a site further down Bloxwich Road, said: "There is ample parking space on the site along with disabled parking space."

Rosie's T-shirt fundraiser

A CHARITY set up in honour of Aldridge schoolgirl Rosie Ross, who was stabbed to death a decade ago, is raising funds by selling 10th anniversary T-shirts for £10 via www.rosieshelpinghands.org

The 16-year-old was killed in Birmingham in 2001, and her parents, Karen and Sean Ross, set up Rosie's Helping Hands.

Gates close on troublespot



Mohammed Zaki, front left, and Councillors Imran Azam and Mohammed Arif celebrate with Surjit Singh, Heather Saranne, Roy Jones, Karen Bateman, Suky Hargun and Madeleine Holland

A PROBLEM alley in Walsall, which attracted anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking and drug-pushers has been gated off.

Residents have campaigned for seven years to boost safety at the back of a parade of shops in Caldmore Green.

Residents and councillors began looking at ways to make the alleyway safer. Now, traders and residents are celebrating after new gates were finally installed. Councillor Mohammed Arif said: "I am delighted that the hard work of councillors and council officers has resulted in assurance to the business community and residents living above the shops."

Gates have been put in near the entrance to Caldmore School and between Star Bargains and Caldmore One Stop Shop.

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Community spirit at mural

THE creation of a mural brought a Walsall community together as they all pitched in.

Young people, mothers and fathers and people with learning disabilities got together to paint the mural in Stephenson Square, Beechdale.

Donna Smith, project officer at the Beechdale Community Centre which helped organise the project, said it had started to break down barriers between different sections of the community.

Fabulous

She said: "There are conflicts within the local community and what we did was, we looked at this as an issue and consulted with the young people, and thought this was an excellent way to involve them."

"There was a lot of bad graffiti on the wall, but on Wednesday we had business owners, mums, dads and young people come together to join in improving the community. It was absolutely fabulous."

More than 100 people came along to get involved. Donna added: "By no means is this going to resolve some of the long-term social problems on the estate, but what we have done is help make that first step."



Front, Simon Quinn, Nicola Pickles, co-ordinator, of Bloxwich, Charley Hayes, 12, from Walsall, Gwenda McGowan, co-ordinator, of Bloxwich, and project manager Donna Smith, from Walsall Council

Bill to clear up estate mounts

TAXPAYERS have been left to foot a clean-up bill in Walsall after travellers and fly-tippers dumped sofas, tyres and cardboard boxes.

The cost to clear up Goscoe Lodge Crescent ran to more than £230.

The land is a former housing estate that has been razed to the ground ahead of redevelopment.

But since the demolition, it has become a magnet for fly-tipping and council chiefs said they would

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"explore all possible avenues to see what can be done".

A convoy of five caravans, two trucks and a car arrived in Goscoe Lodge Crescent on July 31.

Litter

They stayed for four days, leaving a trail of litter and debris when it moved on.

The rubbish had to be cleared by the council, along

with other waste that had been dumped there by thoughtless fly-tippers.

Councillor Tom Ansell said: "The fly-tipping has been cleared up by the Street Pride team, at an estimated cost of £234 for labour and disposal."

"The council is constantly looking at ways of preventing fly-tipping in hotspot areas, but in some locations it is not practical to install deterrents such as bollards or road blocks, but we will explore all possible avenues to see what can be done."

Road gated after attack

A GREAT Barr road will be gated off after arsonists caused £356,000 worth of damage when they set fire to an electricity junction box and plunged two miles of motorway into darkness.

Vandals hit the electricity junction box underneath the M5 and M6 interchange in May, cutting power to lights between junctions seven and eight. The fire also affected 34 properties in Newton Road, Pear Tree Close and nearby streets.

Council bosses have agreed to restrict access to the road in a bid to crackdown on vandalism. Ward Councillor Ray Nock said: "I'm pleased we've come to a final agreement to help the residents out because they have been through so much over the last few years."

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'Disability' label being used for sole aim of winning planning permission

WITH regard to 'Housing Bid for Disabled' (August 11), I was concerned about the way this could be interpreted by readers and wish to respond with relevant information relating to the planning application.

The original planning application in April 2008 was for 'four self contained units' with no reference to disability or letting option.

This application was refused and in December 2008 another application was put forward for 'four contained units to let', with

still no reference to 'disabilities' and again was refused. It was not until 2010 that a revised application was put forward and the word 'disability' introduced into the use of the four self contained units.

This application was again turned down by the planning department and in April 2011 by the National Planning Inspectorate on appeal.

This application relates to a semi detached bungalow in a residential area of Aldridge with its own drive, designated

originally for residential use. Change of use to 'four self contained units', whether for the disabled or otherwise, would have implications on parking.

Whether or not the occupants themselves have their own transport, visitors such as those from the medical and caring sector would also require a parking space on the drive.

This is in addition to families and friends of occupants and does not take into account the extra refuse bins which will be required.

As someone who has been following the progress of this planning application carefully and who works with young people and adults with disabilities, I will always be supportive of creating appropriate living accommodation to enable these members of society to live independently.

However, I am not in favour of a 'disability' label being used for the sole purpose of acquiring planning approval.

Name and address supplied

Join us at back of queue, lady

Club can help you master that camera

PEN to paper from me too after reading Heather Jones's letter (August 11) regarding the woman on the front page of our Chronicle pleading for a job.

I share that lady's comments as I'm sure a good many do too. It was disgusting to put this woman in at all.

So, she had did well for herself in the USA. Now the cash has run out she comes back to Willenhall with a sob story. Yet there are many of us at home who find work who don't get the publicity which she didn't deserve. Yes, go to back of the queue, lady, like the rest of us.

Mrs G Granger
Willenhall

IF YOU have bought that new camera and wonder what all the dials and numbers mean then come along to our Walsall Wood Camera Club on a Tuesday at 7.45pm and we will help.

Over a season, the programme will cover visiting lecturers, practical evenings, Photoshop, competitions for the advanced and beginners of the club with experienced photographers who will discuss your work.

The club meets at St John's Community Hall, St John's Church, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, and begins the 35th season on Tuesday, September 6.

If you require any more information please visit www.walsallwoodcameraclub.org.uk or contact Dave Deeming LRPS BPE2 on 01922 496756.

Dave Deeming
Programme Secretary
Walsall Wood Camera Club

Heartbroken at having to leave my home after 30 happy years – is there anything else can I do?

DO YOU have something to say? Email walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk or write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All must include a full name, address and contact number.

UNTIL June 2010 I was buying my ex-council, one-bedroom maisonette. I found myself in financial difficulties, having previously worked for 30 years at an engineering firm which closed down in 2007 as our work was sent to the Czech sister company.

Being over 50, I have found it very difficult to find work and my redundancy money ran out.

I only get £18.33 per week JSA and £230 a month from my private pension. I could not afford £388 a month mortgage so I decided that as I really wanted to stay in the

property that I had lived in since 1951 there was no alternative to a 'sale and rent back' scheme.

The £10,000 I ended up with after the mortgage was paid gave me breathing space and the hope that I may find employment. I have not been able to, but I volunteer for two days per week. It has helped me greatly – they are lovely people.

As the £10,000 shrank I applied for housing benefit and was turned down. I took it to a tribunal. I lost. Once someone enters into this scheme, after selling their property, they can't claim housing

benefit for five years.

I had help initially from the CAB, but they didn't advise me about the five year rule or put me in touch with anyone who would know. All they advised me to do was 'be careful'. All I can do now is bid for a council flat once a week.

The council will pay up to £365 pcm for me to find somewhere private, plus the deposit. At present I am only paying £290 pcm, but I am having to leave the home I love. I'm heartbroken.

Hazel Baggett
Walsall

I am a caring person and that jibe about my ear piercings truly hurt

REMEMBER not to judge a book by its cover.

Last Friday I took my 85 year old mother-in-law, who is in a wheelchair and has cancer, to do her grocery shopping in Morrisons, Willenhall. There, I heard an elderly gentleman comment, 'look how many times she's got her ears pierced! No doubt she's a gypsy or a troublemaker'.

I have my ears pierced seven times as well as a cartilage piercing. I looked straight at the man and I told him that I

found his comments below the belt, as I am neither a gypsy or a troublemaker. Yes, I have short hair which is why he saw the piercings, but in all fairness what I do to my body is of no concern to him or anybody else as long as people obey the laws. I am not breaking any laws by being a caring person.

I admit that his below the belt comments were hurtful and when I politely told him I was neither a gypsy or troublemaker he wasn't apologetic, he just scoffed.

It frustrates me that some people can be this way, give no respect but demand respect.

It takes many different kinds of people to live in our world, whether you are young or old, rich or poor, healthy or unhealthy, or different colour skin or nationalities, we must respect each other for the person they are and basically not to judge one another.

Mrs M Green
Greaves Crescent
Willenhall

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Water fun park opened at last

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A LONG-awaited water play area, featuring jets, fountains, seesaws and slides, has finally opened at Willenhall Memorial Park.

The £200,000 water features were supposed to be working by the start of the summer holidays, but there was a delay due to electrical problems.

The project is paid for by the Big Lottery Fund and it is hoped it will reduce anti-social behaviour in the park and the wider community.

Weather

Councillor Anthony Harris, Walsall Council cabinet member for leisure and culture, said: "I'm delighted that the water features at Willenhall Memorial Park are now open and fingers crossed there is still some good weather in the remainder of the holidays so everyone can really enjoy them."

"Unfortunately, the opening was delayed slightly, which was not of our making, but we wanted to make sure everything was working correctly before it was opened."

The water play area comprises jets, fountains, a water play table, seesaw, roundabout and scramble and slide unit, all with safety surfacing.

History theme

EXHIBITS by local history societies, Walsall Local History Centre and Walsall Museums will be displayed at a local history fair at the town's museum on Saturday, September 17.

Fashionable farewell



Georgina Jelley, 63, says goodbye to her shop

SHE has fought off an armed robber and got her shop running again after a devastating fire.

But Georgina Jelley is finally closing the doors to her women's clothes store in Walsall after 37 years. The mother of three is closing Empress, in George Street.

Mrs Jelley said she was looking forward to retirement after almost four decades decking out Walsall ladies in fancy

outfits, mother-of-the-bride outfits and cruise-wear.

The 63-year-old said: "I have seen so many changes in Walsall."

"I fought off an armed robber, and we got everything back up and running after the fire at Shannons Mill which meant my shop had to close for five months."

"I even had my three children Paul, Nick and Kate while working here."

Runaway children rush led by girls

FIFTY youngsters each month are running away from home in Walsall, according to latest figures.

The statistics showed that more girls ran away than boys and the average age was between 12 and 16.

Council bosses said they were working hard to crack down on the number of young runaways in the borough.

The figure was contained in the annual report of the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board.

Social care bosses said most ran away from their own homes.

But the majority of repeat runaways were looked-after children from residential homes or foster families.

Families

The majority were found safe and returned to their families or carers.

Councillor Rachel Andrew, Walsall Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "Walsall Safeguarding Children's Board has been working with the police and a local voluntary organisation to develop a very comprehensive system so that we understand all police reported incidents of children who run away."

Blood donations

VOLUNTEERS are invited to a blood donor session at St James's Church, Vicarage Road, Brownhills, today (Thursday) between 1.30pm-3.30pm and 4.30pm-7.30pm. Booking is recommended on 0300 123 23 23.

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Many not ready for TV switch

HUNDREDS of Walsall people, mainly pensioners, are still not ready for next month's digital television switchover, it is claimed.

New figures show many risk their screens going blank as analogue broadcasting ends from the Sutton Coldfield transmitter.

This will enter stage one of the switchover on September 7 and stage two on September 21.

Peter Last, chairman of the Walsall Pensioners Convention, said he feared the majority of those yet to switch over could be elderly.

Elderly

"There could be quite a few elderly people who find it difficult. We had to get our grandchildren over to help us out," he said.

"For many pensioners, especially those on their own and with what's going on the streets today, the television can be like a friend."

Anyone with questions can visit www.digitaluk.co.uk or call the Digital UK advice line on 0845 650 5050.

Hospital order on fire bid man

A MAN who tried to set fire to a relative's house in Walsall has been given a hospital order under the Mental Health Act.

Rajvinder Minhas, aged 36, poured petrol through a window at Primley Close, Almondbury, and lit a match on January 18. The fuel did not catch fire.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last week that Minhas, of Nottingham, was a paranoid schizophrenic. He admitted attempted arson.

Warning call over state of area's paths

FOOTPATHS and garage courts on a Walsall housing estate are in such poor repair that they are becoming dangerous, councillors have warned.

Walsall Housing Group has now been urged to replace road surfaces on the Manor Farm estate, in Willenhall.

Short Heath ward's Councillor Doreen Shires said the footways on the estate have

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

had little if any maintenance since the homes were built in the 1980s. The area was one of the council estates which was transferred to the housing group's ownership in 2003.

Councillor Shires said: "The footways are not only dangerous, they detract from the general appearance of this popular estate. WHG needs to accept its responsibilities and make provision in its budgets for issues like this."

"They could be faced with accident claims which could turn out to be more expensive in the long run."

Rob Gilham, Walsall Housing Group's director of housing services, said: "We have invested more than £200 million in homes since transfer from Walsall Council in 2003."

Priority

"Modernising the properties was our priority and we achieved the Government's decent homes standard ahead of deadline."

"In addition to now maintaining the decent homes standard, we have turned our attention to the environment and are in the process of producing 19 neighbourhood plans, which cover the borough including, of course, Manor Farm Estate."

"These comprehensive plans focus on improving the fabric of our neighbourhoods including open space, parking and footpaths. When putting together each plan we consider the funding solutions necessary."

Sisters reign supreme



Eloise Watts, six, Emilia, nine, and Alyssa

LESS than a year since these three sisters from Moxley stepped into the world of beauty pageants, they have already won 150 crowns and sashes.

As well as appearing in several live beauty pageants, Alyssa, Emilia and Eloise Watts have also taken part in more than 500 online contests. The Moorcroft Wood Primary School

Ten-year-old Alyssa will represent Birmingham, Emilia, nine, will represent Wolverhampton and Eloise, six, will represent Walsall at the competition on October 22.

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COMPETITION

Win £50 vouchers for that smart back to school look

TO CELEBRATE the start of a new school year, leading fashion and homeware retailer Matalan is offering five lucky Chronicle readers a £50 gift voucher to spend at their local store on Matalan's new Back to School range.

The vouchers can be spent at Matalan Walsall North or Matalan Walsall South.

This much loved family retailer has fantastic fashion for children of all ages, so kids can look smarter for less.

Selection

The Back To School range offers great value, top quality and functional schoolwear for girls and boys aged three to 16.

Prepare kids for the start of term with all the school essentials. Matalan's range of fashionable, durable and easy-to-iron uniforms includes everything from trousers, shirts, sweatshirts and jumpers to pinafores, dresses and knitwear. It also includes fantastic footwear, sportswear and coats.

Matalan's in-house design teams work to create a broad range to suit every need and differing taste. Matalan retails out of 205 stores nationwide, offering affordable fashion and luxuries.



Matalan range for each age group

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| ● Infants 0-5 yrs | Boys schoolwear age 3-16 yrs | ● Hooch age 8-16 yrs | 13yrs |
| ● Girls and Boys fashion age 3-13yrs | ● Disney | ● Boys: Denim 73 age 6-13yrs | ● Footwear |
| ● Girls and | ● Candy Couture age 6-13yrs | ● Kangol 8- | ● Accessories |
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HOW TO ENTER

To enter the competition, simply answer the following question:

How many stores does Matalan have nationwide?

- 55
- 105
- 205

Post your answer to MATALAN COMPETITION, Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES. The closing date is Thursday, September 1. The winners will be picked at random and notified.

Terms and conditions:

- Only one entry per person
- Entry must contain contact name, address and phone number
- Editor's decision is final.
- Vouchers can be redeemed against Back to School clothing and footwear only.
- Vouchers are valid for 3 months from competition closure date, are not transferable or re-usable and have no cash value.
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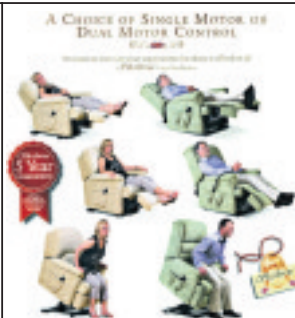
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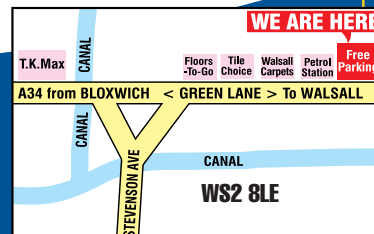
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thechronicle

Speed signs to be switched back on

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

NEW illuminated speed signs are being installed on key routes in Walsall to mark the introduction of reduced limits. The 40mph limit is being cut to 30mph on Bostly Lane and Wolverhampton Road, along with Sutton Road.

The restriction, aimed at cutting accidents, has been introduced on Sutton Road between Walsall and Pheasey - and has a new Watchman sign. It warns speeding drivers and is part of a package of proposals on the busy stretch, including new crossing points and markings.

A chance to try abseiling

ADRENALINE junkies from Walsall are invited to take the plunge for a charity abseil event.

The fundraiser, which will see participants drop 30 meters, will take place at The New Art Gallery, on Saturday October 1, to raise vital funds for Diabetes UK. Entry is £30 per person and a trained team will be on hand to provide assistance and encouragement.

To sign up contact Diabetes UK via e-mail at midlands@diabetes.org.uk or call 01922 614 500.

Joyce opens lingerie store

A FORMER Walsall school cook who was treated for breast cancer has fashioned a new career in supplying lingerie to help others cope with the illness.

Joyce Davis opened the You Wear It Well Lingerie store four months ago, in Leamore Lane, Leamore.

The mother-of-three, who lives in Bloxwich, set it up after she spotted a gap in the market for suitable underwear.

The lower limit is also coming into force on Bostly Lane, in Aldridge, and Wolverhampton Road, which links Walsall town centre to Junction 10 of the M6, in the coming weeks.

Transport chief councillor Tom Ansell said: "Our contractor has started work on the scheme and will be installing the illuminated signs first in Sutton Road before moving on to the other sites."

Accidents

"It's not possible to give an exact date for the work to be completed as it will depend on the energy supplier as to when the signs are switched on. The changes were identified as part of a review of speed limits in Walsall."

Changes on Sutton Road come after calls for traffic to be slowed down following a series of accidents. In the last three years one of the most serious crashes saw a driver have to be cut free from a Citroen Saxo. A car was hit a lamp post along the same route. It follows a review of all A and B roads in the borough and an assessment is now being extended to all C and unclassified routes in the next two years.

The speed limit on Norton Road, Pelsall, has also been cut from 60mph to 40mph.



Temple general secretary, hospital consultant Mohinder Singh with Dr Amir Khan, Kam Mavi and Jas Mavi

Temple cash boost for hospital patients

YOUTHS at a temple baked cakes, washed cars - and collected £930 for young patients at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Group leaders Jaskaran Singh Mavi and Ramnik Rai organised the project as part of the 2011 Vaisakhi celebrations at the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, in West Bromwich Street, Walsall.

Mr Singh Mavi, aged 21, said: "On Vaisakhi we have a big congregation so we ran a cake stall and car wash. "We thought we would only raise about £300, but the cakes were sold out within about three hours."

"The youth team had made around 100 cakes each, but they were so popular we had to go to a wholesaler for more."

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Day Code	NS			every 60 mins				
Cannock, Bus Station	0615	0715	0830	then at these mins past each hour	30	1430	1540	1640 1740
New Invention, Shopping Centre	0635	0735	0850	then at these mins past each hour	50	1450	1600	1700 1800
Birmingham, Carrs Lane	0725	0825	0925	then at these mins past each hour	25	1525	1635	1735 1835

Birmingham - M6 - Bentley - Shepwell Green - Short Heath - New Invention - Cheslyn Hay - Great Wryley - Cannock

X31

Monday to Saturday

Route Number	X31	X31	X31	X31	X31	X31	X31	X31
Day Code	NS			every 60 mins				
Birmingham, Carrs Lane	0726	0826	0926	then at these mins past each hour	26	1426	1526	1636 1736 1836
New Invention, Shopping Centre	0800	0900	1000	then at these mins past each hour	00	1500	1606	1710 1810 1910
Cannock, Bus Station	0821	0921	1021	then at these mins past each hour	21	1521	1631	1731 1831 1931

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ARRIVA

Tesco in talks on base for disabled

SOCIAL care bosses in Walsall are in talks with Tesco over creating an Independent Living Centre at the new town centre store.

It would include Shopmobility and showcase the equipment that can help disabled people.

The £55 million Tesco store off Littleton Street West opened in December.

The support and advice service at the former Centre for Independent Living in Bridge Street, is temporarily housed at Walsall Council's Civic Centre.

The new £300,000 base would give people the chance to see equipment which could help them to live independently.

Advice would be provided on health issues and employment.

Suitable

Councillor Barbara McCracken, cabinet member for social care and health, said: "We have been looking for a new site so that we can offer Walsall residents better opportunities to see what is available to help them live independently."

"We want to find a more accessible centre and be able to offer Shopmobility in a more suitable location."

"These discussions have been positive so far."

Turbine project

PLANS have been lodged with Walsall Council to erect a 220ft wind turbine at College Farm, Bosty Lane, Aldridge, to help supply the farm's energy needs.

Jobs on cards at £10m hotel

Pointes mean prizes



Ballet good show by Jack Brownhill

A TEENAGER from Willenhall who hopes to make it as a dancer has come second in an international competition.

Jack Brownhill, aged 15, took silver in the ballet category and sixth in modern at the British Championships in Blackpool against dancing rivals from as far afield as Canada and Australia.

It was the latest in a string of appearances for The Pool Hayes Arts and Community College pupil. Last month he took part in the Birmingham Royal Ballet's Genie challenge and the All England Dance finals held in London.

He trains at Dance Xtreme studio, Newhall Street, Willenhall.

walsallchronicle

@expressandstar.co.uk

BUILDING work on a £10 million hotel in Walsall town centre is due to begin next month.

The 100-bedroom Premier Inn is part of the £50m Walsall Waterfront development, which has already resulted in scores of new homes and will eventually create canalside bars and restaurants.

The first stage of the work will see an access road built off Wolverhampton Road ready for the new development. Temporary bus stops for the 529, 40 and 41 services will also spring up.

The new hotel is set to create 65 jobs in the borough.

Forward

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is fantastic news and the latest chapter in a story that is seeing investment in Walsall and new jobs created."

"This will be the biggest hotel in Walsall. Yet again, we are bucking the trend with new investment in the town centre."

John Bates, Premier Inn head of acquisitions, said: "We're looking forward to work starting on site and, beyond that, to opening our new hotel for business."

The new hotel will sit between Wolverhampton Street and the town arm of the Walsall Canal, close to the New Art Gallery.

Cedar protected

A CEDAR tree in Broadway North, Walsall, has been protected by council order as "a prominent landscape feature" after a beech nearby was excessively pruned.

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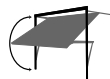
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Garden project in line for Hugh TV show cash

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A PLANNED community garden run by Walsall residents has been nominated for a chance to win a grant from a project linked to Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's TV show River Cottage.

Organiser Danielle Jaynes wants residents from across the borough to get on board and back the Green Energy project.



Danielle Jaynes with one of her chickens and back left, Monica Longhi, Chloe Jaynes and Bonnie Smith, all 11

She hopes the scheme to secure a plot of council-owned land in Rushall will attract a slice of the £500,000 up for grabs for the best ideas.

"I'm looking to secure a piece of land to create a garden and I would like to encourage as many people as possible to get on board," she said Miss Jaynes, a 28-year-old mother of one who lives in Pelsall.

"I'm also in the process of talking to schools to promote what we are doing."

Generating

Green Energy was selected from more than 1,000 entries for the second stage of the Energysure competition.

It involves an idea for a scheme incorporating a food garden which would result in generating free fuel which could benefit the community.

The competition was set up by River Cottage in conjunction with British Gas.

Next month landscape architect Miss Jaynes will be holding talks with 12 schools about the benefits of the scheme.

Car park plea

AN APPEAL to the Planning Inspectorate against a Walsall Council enforcement order to close an unofficial £3-a-day car park in Lower Rushall Street, Walsall, is set for October.

Masked man robs lad of bike

A balaclava-clad man pulled a schoolboy off his bike and threatened him before stealing it.

The youngster was riding through a field near Hughes Road, Moxley, Walsall, at

about 9.40pm last Wednesday.

Police said the man who took the bike is white, between 5ft 11in and 5ft 2in, and spoke with a Midlands accent.

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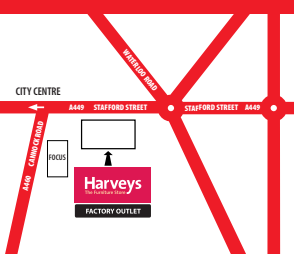
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thechronicle

Workforce axed as building firm closes

THE entire workforce of a Walsall building firm has been made redundant after the company went into administration and closed.

All 16 members of staff have lost their jobs at Fellows & Jones (Builders) Ltd, in Pinfold Street, Darlaston.

Administrator Senate Recovery is now handling the affairs of the business, which was established in 1972. It today confirmed the loss of all 16 workers.

The collapse of the firm also resulted in

the cancellation of the popular children's summer playscheme at Darlaston's St Lawrence's Church.

Fellows & Jones had started a £13,000 project to install new toilets at the venue but closed down before the work was finished.

Warden June Johnson said the church's annual school holiday club usually attracted 50 youngsters a day.

No-one from the firm was available for comment and a "to let" sign hangs at the entrance to the Pinfold Street yard.



Luke Dafforn, aged 14, front, and Brandon Parker, 13, both from Walsall Wood

Sk8er boy well fixed to fly high

Youngsters are flying high at a skate park in Walsall Wood after picking up tips on fixing their bikes.

Youth worker Mark Stephen is running a workshop at the skate park at Oak Park Leisure Centre to teach how to keep a bike in good nick.

He said he used the opportunity to guide the youngsters away from anti-social behaviour and towards positive engagement with people.

"We talk to them about youth issues, and use bikes as the approach."

"We had about 30 or 40 of them here - it's quite popular. There's a mobile van with internet, and we put music on."

"We are down there every Friday as part of the council's summer activities programme, and teach them to test their brakes and about adjusting their bikes."

The skate facility was given an £80,000 makeover last year.

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Four years for gang member in cars grab

A MEMBER of a gang which raided a Willenhall industrial unit to steal cars and more than £1,100 has been jailed for four years and eight months.

Andrew Rose was one of four men who burst in and confronted owners of a car sales and repair site in Owen Road.

Dangerous

The gang took car keys and escaped with a Honda, a Mini Cooper, a Jaguar, and an MG Rover along with mobile phones, a gold necklace, a gold bracelet and £1,165 cash.

The 26-year-old was arrested in Birmingham a few days later when he tried to accelerate away from officers in the Rover.

Rose went the wrong way around a traffic island and was going at least 10mph over the 30mph speed limit. He also mounted the pavement.

Rose, of Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, who was described as the "muscle man", admitted four counts of robbery and dangerous driving at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

He was found not guilty of possessing an imitation firearm after a trial earlier this month.

No-one else has ever been caught in connection with the robbery on January 28.

Rose's co-accused Julian Allen, 21, of Beales Street, Aston, was cleared of robbery and of possessing an imitation firearm.

Ducks so handy for cash float

A GRANDMOTHER from Willenhall who has survived breast cancer twice is making a splash after helping to launch 'designer' rubber ducks.

They cost £4.99 each and help to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Sue Hodson helped launch the ducks - which include a distinctive Diva Duck complete with leopard skin print and extra long eyelashes - at Cancer Research UK's shop in Wolverhampton.

Effective

Mrs Hodson, aged 58, who has two children and three grandchildren, was diagnosed with breast cancer after finding a lump in 2003.

The disease was spotted again during a routine check-up and she had an operation in March 2010.

She said: "I am living proof that research into breast cancer leads to effective treatments and saves lives."



Sue Hodson and a pair of her fundraising ducks

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thechronicle

Parking fees may be cut

PROPOSALS to cut parking charges on under-used car parks and reduce four-hour charges in Walsall are due to be considered by the council cabinet. Options put forward by a working group include cutting all day parking fees from £5 to £3 in Ward Street and Dudley Street. It has also been suggested

reducing four-hour stays by £1 to £2.80.

Proposals to cut free parking on industrial sites on the outskirts of the town centre in Frederick Street, Charles Street and Brook Street were also highlighted for consideration.

The aim would be to stop Birmingham commuters leaving their cars all day.

Cash plea to fly home isle accident son

THE family of a Walsall man seriously injured in a quad bike crash in Cyprus were desperately trying to raise £10,000 this week to fly him home.

Kieron Kellar's insurance firm have told them his holiday policy did not cover the use of quad bikes.

The 22-year-old's mother, Maxine Rochelle and aunt, Amanda Kellar, said they have been left in complete shock.

Ms Rochelle, aged 42, of Cromwell Close, Bentley, said: "It was just awful. I was in Morocco at the time on holiday, and I was in a state of panic.

"At one point we thought Kieron might not walk again, but he has had the feeling come back to his legs now. We just need to get him home to be treated here."

Weekend

Ms Kellar said: "He is now able to sit up in hospital, but it is very difficult over there, there is of course the language problem, and a lot of the time we just don't know what is going on.

"He can't remember what happened, but his friends said he was hit by a truck, which then drove off."

Mr Kellar stopped breathing and was resuscitated by the ambulance crews. He then had to be resuscitated again at the hospital.

Mr Kellar, who has just finished his course in Sports Management at university, has spinal damage, broken ribs, a broken leg and has also had to have his spleen removed.

Mr Kellar's sister Sasha, aged 19, is in Cyprus with him, but the rest of the family are at home trying to raise funds.

Anyone wishing to help the family can donate via their Facebook group, Get Kieron Kellar Home.

The family held a car wash and fun day fundraiser at the United Kingdom pub in Walsall at the weekend.

Hair salon that just won't die

ENFORCEMENT action is being sought against the owner of a former hair salon in Walsall who has demolished the building but left the rubble behind.

Curl & Dye, in Birchills, was pulled down last April following a campaign which had lasted 14 years by fed-up residents, and following Walsall Council court action. But the rubble still remains at the site in Wolverhampton Road and council officers are now seeking a legal notice to force the owner to clean up the mess.

Leader

If this is not complied with the council could carry out the work itself and then send the owner the bill.

The owner was called to court earlier this year to be prosecuted over the state of the building, but the case was dropped after the former salon was bulldozed.

Walsall Council's leader, Councillor Mike Bird said: "It's been an eyesore for many years."

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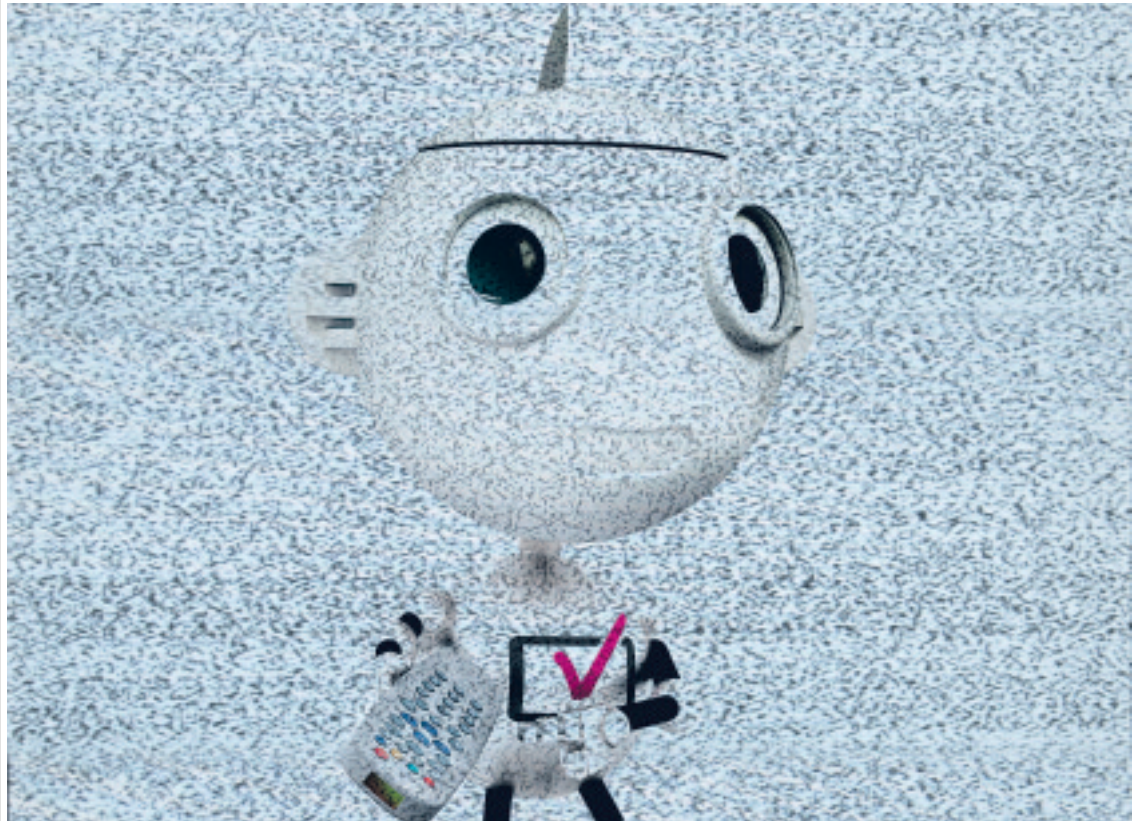
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Transport nod for £2m pub

Plans for a new £2.5 million pub creating 50 jobs on a retail park near Walsall have moved a step closer after the site was deemed suitable by highway chiefs.

An assessment into the proposed Marston's pub on the Gallagher Retail Park was carried out by Walsall Council chiefs to ensure the scheme would not impact on traffic flow or safety.

This has now been agreed by planning officers, paving the way for the full proposal to be considered.

The main project for one of Marston's restaurant-style Magnum pubs, with a trading area of 4,800sqft, will need to go before neighbouring Sandwell Council.

Intentions

Walsall's head of planning, David Elsworth, said: "The approval of this new access off the existing traffic roundabout on Axletree Road will allow for the development of the larger site which is in Sandwell Council area.

"It will not have any detrimental impact on the surrounding highway network and will not impact on the free flow and safety of existing and future highway users."

Midlands pub giant Marston's revealed their intentions to create the new venue between the River Tame and Axletree Way earlier in the summer.

Fire crew cuts man from car

A MAN had to be cut free when two cars collided at a Walsall crossroads.

Fire crews from Walsall were called to Heath Road, Darlaston, at 11.30am on Sunday after a Skoda and a Suzuki crashed.

Two adults and a baby were uninjured and got out of the Suzuki.

Fire crews removed the roof and door of the Skoda to free the driver, who was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital with suspected neck and back injuries. His female passenger escaped from the car.

Tortured for Britain

LOCAL HERITAGE



STUART WILLIAMS, of Walsall Local History Centre, the borough-council's archives service and local studies library, takes a close look at some of the remarkable and inspirational people associated with the borough.

THE history of the lives of Walsall people is full of surprises, none more so than that of Sir Harry Smith Parkes, who became one of the British Empire's most influential and controversial diplomatic figures.

Harry was born in 1828 at Birchills Hall, in the parish of Bloxwich. When he was four, Harry's mother died, and the following year his father, an ironmaster, was killed in a carriage accident and buried at All Saints Church, Bloxwich.

Harry went to live with his uncle, a retired naval officer, in Birmingham. He was educated at boarding school at Balsall Heath, and then in May 1838 entered King Edward's Grammar School, in New Street, Birmingham.

In 1841 Parkes sailed for Macau, China, at the time of the First Opium War (1839-42).

After learning Chinese, in 1842 Harry Parkes moved to Hong Kong. In 1844 he was appointed interpreter at Amoy and in 1845 he was transferred to Foochow. In 1847 he studied Japanese, and was appointed interpreter at Shanghai in 1848.

Parlaying

In February 1852, Parkes was acting consul at Canton. In 1855 he went to Siam (now Thailand) to conclude a commercial treaty with the kingdom. Parkes took the treaty to England for ratification, and on 9 July was received by Queen Victoria. While in England, Harry met Miss Fanny Plumer, grand-daughter of Sir Thomas Plumer, the first Vice Chancellor of England. After a six-week courtship, they married on New Year's Day, 1856, at St Lawrence's Church, Whitchurch, and left England on January 9.

Parkes' position as acting consul at Canton brought him into serious conflict with imperial commissioner and governor-general, Ye Mingchen, which led to the Second Opium War

(1856-60). Parkes was closely involved with both diplomatic and military efforts by the British and French in China, which saw the enforcement by the Royal Navy and the Army of previously-denied British treaty rights to enter Canton for trade and diplomacy.

Harry Parkes was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) on December 6, 1859. On August 1, 1860, attached to General Sir James Hope Grant, Parkes was sent into Peking, taking possession of an evacuated fort.

After an assault on the main fort, he helped negotiate the Chinese surrender. After August 24, the allied British and French armies advanced from Tianjin towards Tungechow. Parkes travelled ahead, parlaying with the Chinese authorities and agreeing that the armies should advance to about five miles distance. On September 18 he left Tungechow to mark out the encampment, but observed a Chinese force assembling there and returned to Tungechow, where his party was taken prisoner despite being under a flag of truce.

The Manchu general, San-kolin-sin, sent Parkes to Peking with Lord Elgin's private secretary, Henry Loch, Nal Singh, and two French sol-



diers. There he and Loch were brought before the Board of Punishments, chained in prison, and tortured.

On September 29, on the orders of Yixin, 1st Prince Gong, Parkes and Loch were removed to a temple and asked to intervene with the British commanders. Parkes refused, and on October 8 he, Loch, and six others were released, thankfully just before the emperor's order for their execution arrived.

Parkes returned to Canton in January 1861 and arranged the cession of Kowloon to the British Crown. On October 21, 1861, the allies returned Canton to Chinese

authority, ending Parkes' duties as commissioner. In 1862 he returned to England, now famous, and was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB).

In 1864, Parkes finally took up the consulship in Shanghai, and in 1865 was appointed Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General in Japan. He held the post for 18 years, surviving three assassination attempts and ruling the British legation to Meiji Japan with a commitment to hard work and the construction of a civilian Japan which aroused both admiration and irritation. Parkes was also the first

diplomatic representative to Korea.

In 1883, Parkes was transferred to Peking, where he died of malarial fever on March 21, 1885.

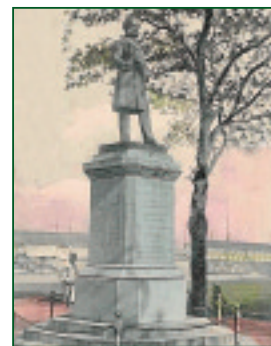
In 1890, the Duke of Connaught unveiled a statue of Parkes on The Bund in Shanghai. Parkes Street, in Kowloon, is named after him.

Today, Sir Harry Smith Parkes is almost forgotten in Walsall, which seems strange for a remarkable local man.

For local and family history, drop into Walsall Local History Centre, in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council, log on to www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre or call 01922 721305.



Left, Walsall-born diplomat Sir Harry Smith Parkes in about 1870; above, an attack on his delegation to the Meiji Emperor of Japan in 1868; right, a statue of Sir Harry that stood on The Bund at Shanghai, right, until removed during Japan's occupation of the city in the Second World War



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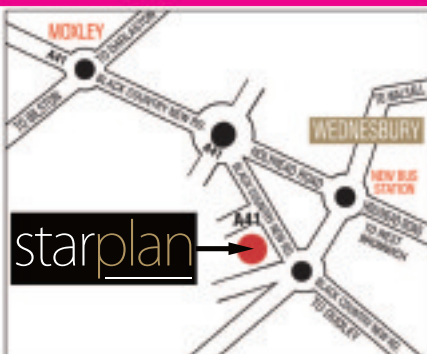
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thechronicle



Teachers tour Hadley Industries in Smethwick as part of the programme

Skills key for project to boost industry's prospects

A BLACK Country-based trade association's innovative approach to solving the manufacturing sector's biggest skills problem could be rolled out nationwide.

The Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM), based at the National Metalforming Centre in West Bromwich, has devised a pioneering scheme with Walsall Business Partnership (EBP).

It targets teachers through summer-time factory tours and off-site meetings – then encourages them to include their new knowledge in school timetables.

CBM president Barry Yeomans says the concept was trialled during 2010, with the EBP, and he is delighted by the way the just-completed 2011 scheme operated.

He said: "We used feedback from last year's trial to fine-tune the way the initiative worked, and it really couldn't have been better received by the employers or the teachers.

Aimed

"We're already seeing skill shortages as workers with decades of accumulated expertise retire, and those problems will intensify unless we persuade significant numbers of school-leavers that engineering can provide them with challenging, stimulating and rewarding careers." Previous schemes aimed at persuading youngsters to enter industry, have typically involved time-consuming school visits by company bosses, combined with expensive and glossy advertising campaigns.

However, Mr Yeomans admits those nationally-driven initiatives didn't have the desired impact, and believes that this programme is more rational and more cost-effective. "For each teacher who buys into our approach, 20, 30 and even 40 youngsters will soon hear the realistic and up-to-date message about life in our industry," he said.

"Teachers prepare lesson plans using the knowledge they've gained during the

summer, and present them to us at our National Metalforming Centre in West Bromwich, so we can discuss, and help to fine-tune the content, before the pupils are involved.

"We believe this approach will also bring longer-term benefits, as the teachers develop a deeper understanding of manufacturing, and are able to pass on their knowledge both to colleagues, and to successive generations of pupils."

Involve

This year, seven teachers took part in the CBM summer study programme, which involved site visits to Regent Engineering, Sandvik Engineering, the TTI Group and the Hadley Group.

"We know from the immediate feedback that the teachers enjoyed their visits; they certainly asked all the right questions, and we gave them stacks of information to take back, to assess as possible content," said Barry.

"The initiative is in its early stages, and we realise the benefits will not be seen immediately, but hopefully, once we have defined best practice for this approach, we can set up similar projects elsewhere in the Midlands, and in time, in all regions where manufacturing industry is based."

Barry's optimism is shared by James Dent, the education business co-ordinator at Walsall EBP.

"The teachers were very impressed by our site visits, and the presentations were excellent," he said.

"The work the teachers will now prepare as a result of these visits, and their feedback meetings at the CBM, will benefit hundreds of children across the Midlands, and promote engineering as a very positive career choice."

The Confederation of British Metalforming (CBM) is the UK's leading trade association for companies in the forging, pressing and sheet metalforming industries. It has around 200 members including the leading British manufacturers and represents 20,000 employees in the UK.

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Set up by three cousins, Robert, Edward and William, the Company now employs a second generation of the family at its three stores in Birmingham/Solihull, Dudley and Manchester, providing continuity for customers and a wealth of product knowledge.

Robert and Edward remain very actively involved in the business, with Robert as the company Chairman. They have recently strengthened the management team to ensure the continued future success of the company.

John Shotton, Robert's eldest son, who has worked at Cousins since 1994, is now Managing Director. John has enjoyed an extensive retailing career and 17 years ago, joined Cousins.

Matt Shotton, Robert's youngest son, started at Cousins in 1997 and has worked in most areas of the business. He is Retail Director with full responsibility for bed buying - and overall control of the Company's three large retail Stores.

Richard Foster is Operations Director and has been with Cousins for 15 years. He initially started as a bedding consultant when Cousins opened their second store in Dudley in 1996 and has been involved in most areas of the business.

Edward's son **Thomas Shotton**, helps to manage the Dudley store along with **Roger Horner**, who joined Cousins from the opening of the Dudley store in 1996.

The original store and warehouse in Birmingham opened in 1985. **Pat Shiels** has recently been appointed Store Manager of the Birmingham store and brings a wealth of retail experience to the company.

In 1996, the Company expanded further, creating a landmark store in Dudley. This expansion continued with the opening of a third flagship store on Regent Road in Salford, Manchester in 2005. The store, was opened by stars of Coronation Street



Standing from left to right, Thomas and Matthew Shotton, Richard Foster. Sitting Edward, Robert and John Shotton.

and has been widely acclaimed as England's finest furniture store. It is managed by **David Fisher**, who has extensive experience of furniture retailing.

The Company is now celebrating its' 26 years in furniture retailing and despite the difficult economic climate, Managing Director John Shotton is looking forward with confidence.

He said "In these days of large chains, we are still very much a family business - and our success over previous years has been built on offering high quality personal service to our customers and the widest selection of designer living room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen and flooring ranges from leading manufacturers - at prices that customers can afford.

The last 26 years have been a great period for the Company and the whole family are justifiably proud of how far we have come," he said. "We have a fantastic team of staff, some of whom have been here since we opened our doors in 1985. We couldn't have become such a success without their continual hard work and dedication.

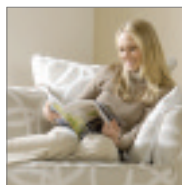
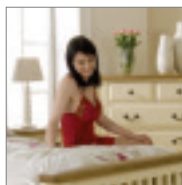
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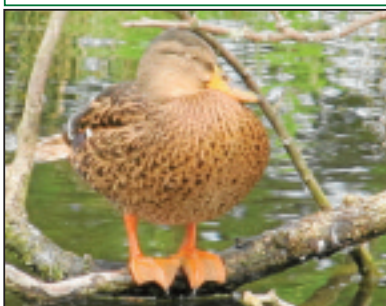
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Sunset over Abbott Street, Bloxwich, from Diane Brookes

This week's camera enthusiasts are Diane Brookes, of Bloxwich, Roger Jones, of Walsall, Andrew Blakemore, of Aldridge, Tim Gwilliam, of Pelsall, and Richard Stevens, of Rushall.



Rushall Canal mallard near Park Lime Pits, Roger Jones



Perennial sow-thistle growing alongside Aldridge Canal, from Andrew Blakemore



Tim Gwilliam pictured a footpath sign along the canal from Pelsall to Brownhills

Pictures of life in the borough

ARE you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or a diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures? If you can, why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject – all we ask is that photos be as sharp and clear as possible and of reasonable quality for publication, featuring some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send photos in with your, name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

We would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we'll do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and email them to walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk or send them by post to Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1ES.



From a cycle path between Station Road and Clayhanger Lane, by Richard Stevens

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North Yorkshire Moors & Whitby • York • 02 Sept. from £129.95

Hereford & the 'River in the Sky' Llangollen Canal Aqueduct

We take you firstly to beautiful Hereford. Here you can discover the fine architecture and the magnificent cathedral. Dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation is included tonight. On day 2 we take you to Llangollen. Here we have included a cruise along the canal taking you on the famous aqueduct which is over 126 feet high.

2 Days • 1 Night: 03 September from £79.95

Pontins Super Breaks

Southport - set next to a great beach - 19 September

Brean Sands - breathtaking West Country seaside resort location - 05 September

Prestatyn - set between the rolling hills of Wales and miles of award winning beaches - 19 September

Camber Sands - set next to a long sandy beach near Rye - 29 August, 12 September & 24 October

5 Days • 4 Nights: Adults from £99.95 • Kids from £69.95

Eastbourne • Glastonbury Hotel

Enjoy 5 days at the popular resort famous for its flower decked promenade and gardens, beaches and excellent facilities. The Glastonbury Hotel is located on the Royal Parade.

Included excursions:

- Brighton
- Hastings & the old Cinque Port of Rye

5 Days • 4 Nights:

12 September from £179.95

Scottish Majesty Loch Ness & the Isle of Skye

Based at the town of Dingwall, close to the Cromarty Firth this is a great way to see some of Scotland's spectacular scenery. The National Hotel is set in the heart of town.

Included excursions:

- Loch Ness & Inverness
- Plockton, Portree & Isle of Skye

5 Days • 4 Nights:

12 Sept from £189.95

24 Oct from £169.95

Girls Getaway Weekend Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff

Treat yourself to a luxurious weekend away. Shop in central Cardiff before checking in to the 4* Copthorne Hotel. There is a health and leisure centre with a swimming pool, gym, sauna and whirlpool bath. Dinner is included. On day 2 the hotel have included a half hour beauty treatment. Return via the charming Cotswolds.

2 Days • 1 Night: 17 September from £99.95

Isle of Wight • Shanklin

Shanklin boasts a long sandy beach which lies at the foot of spectacular cliffs. We stay at the Langham Court Hotel. This is set minutes from the sea front.

Included excursions:

- Half day visit to Godshill
- Full day tour of the Island's coastline

4 Days • 3 Nights:

16 September from £129.95

Olympic Park & London's Historic East End

On day 1 we take you to historic Greenwich, see the Royal Observatory, discover the National Maritime Museum or wander through Greenwich Park. On day 2 we head for Stratford and the East End. Here you can see the Olympic Park before it opens for the Games in 2012.

2 Days • 1 Night: 24 September from £99.95

Isle of Wight • Corner House Hotel

The Corner House is set in the glorious resort of Sandown within walking distance of the beach, pier and shops.

Included excursions:

- Traditional village of Godshill
- Newport - the Island's capital

4 Days • 3 Nights:

23 September & 14 October from £149.95

Blackpool Illuminations Break

Hotel La Tour

Blackpool is the North's biggest, brightest and best resort - packed with excitement and enjoyment. The Hotel La Tour is located in the centre of Blackpool.

3 Days • 2 Nights:

16 Sept & 28 Oct from £89.95

5 Days • 4 Nights:

19 Sept & 03 Oct from £149.95

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs

Rob Roy Hotel

Enjoy the magnificent splendour of Scotland's loch and mountain scenery. The Rob Roy Hotel has a rural setting on the outskirts of Aberfoyle.

Included excursions:

- Edinburgh
- Loch Lomond
- Railway journey from Tarbert to Fort William on the West Highland line

5 Days • 4 Nights:

22 September from £249.95

Weymouth • Russell Hotel

The glorious resort of Weymouth is set on a breathtaking Georgian Bay surrounded by rolling hills. The Russell Hotel is positioned on the sea front close to the shops etc.

Included excursions:

- Chesil Beach, Abbotsbury & Lyme Regis
- Poole & Sandbanks

4 Days • 3 Nights:

23 Sept & 07 Oct from £179.95

London & Brighton

Europa Hotel, Gatwick

Enjoy a weekend break taking in fashionable, bustling London and a chance to catch a breath of sea air at Brighton. Stay at the Europa Hotel. Features include a leisure club with heated indoor pool, spa and sauna.

2 Days • 1 Night:

10 September from £59.95

Sundays: 18 Sept, 16 Oct, 18 Dec from £39.95

Spirit of Christmas

Bournemouth • Heathlands Hotel

31 October - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £169.95

Liverpool • Adelphi Hotel

31 October - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £179.95

Newquay & St Ives • Godolphin Arms Hotel

31 October - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £149.95

Folkestone • Grand Burstin Hotel

04 November - 3 Days • 2 Nights - from £99.95

Newquay Turkey & Tinsel Special

Edgcombe Hotel

07 November - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £199.95

Newquay • 3* Esplanade Hotel

07 November - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £199.95

Pontins Turkey & Tinsel Special - Southport

07 November - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £99.95

Folkestone • Grand Burstin Hotel

11 November - 3 Days • 2 Nights - from £99.95

Scroggling the Holly Weekend - Howarth

Harrogate & Howarth

12 November - 2 Days • 1 Night - from £79.95

Weston Super Mare Carnival

13 November - 3 Days • 2 Nights - from £119.95

Pontins Turkey & Tinsel Special - Prestatyn

14 November - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £119.95

Christmas Shopping, Lunch & Entertainment at Norbreck Castle Hotel

15 November - Day Trip - from £30.95

Blackpool Christmas Cabaret Weekend

La Tour Hotel

19 November - 2 Days • 1 Night - from £49.95

Liverpool Pre-Christmas Super Deal

Adelphi Hotel

21 November - 5 Days • 4 Nights - from £179.95

Sand Bay Holiday Village

near Weston Super Mare - Full Board

Turkey & Tinsel

21 November - 4 Days • 3 Nights - from £229.95

Ludlow Mediaeval Fair & Chester

28 November - 2 Days • 1 Night - from £89.95

Bath Christmas Shopper & visit to Clarke's Shopping Village

05 November & 3 December - 2 Days • 1 Night from £79.95

City of Durham Christmas Festival & visit to the Metro Centre

03 December - 2 Days • 1 Night - from £89.95

See Europe from just £89.⁹⁵

Paris Weekend with visit to Versailles

See the world's most enchanting city and discover the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and Arc de Triomphe. On day 2 an optional Paris excursion taking in the main sights and on day 3 a visit to Versailles.

3 Days • 2 Nights:

16 September, 21 October from £129.95

11 November from £99.95

4 Days • 3 Nights - with included excursions:

- Capital tour taking in the main sights
- Paris by night and Montparnasse Tower
- Versailles. (admission to Chateau extra)

09 September & 14 October from £169.95

Austrian Adventure by First Class Coach

Experience the finest alpine scenery. We stay at the 4* Alpenhof set in the heart of the Kitzbuhel Alps in Brixen. Wellness centre and indoor pool, sauna and steam room.

Included excursions:

- Zell am See and lake cruise
- Grossglockner Glacier
- Berchtesgaden & the Eagle's Nest

8 Days • 7 Nights: 10 September from £439.95

Italian Dolomites Super Saver

Enjoy the scenic splendour of the Italian Sud Tyrol where the soaring pinnacles of the Dolomites contrast with the landscape of the Alps. Our hotels - the Lady Maria at Fondo or Panorama at Malosco are both family run and offer traditional hospitality.

Optional excursions:

- Dolomites - £22.95 pp
- Lake Garda - £19.95 pp
- Alpine spa town and Merano - £22.95 pp

Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £59.95

8 Days • 7 Nights: 10 Sept from £259.95

Brussels, Bruges & Adinkerke

Take in a visit to magnificent Brussels, picturesque Bruges and do some bargain shopping at Adinkerke. We stay at the 3* Novotel Lille Aeroport. This is set 10 minutes from the centre of Lille.

3 Days • 2 Nights:

16 September, 21 October, 18 November from £89.95

Rhine & Wine Free Bar Break Hotel Wagner

Discover the magnificent Rhine and Moselle Valleys with its wonderful scenery, fairytale castles, villages and half timbered houses. Hotel Wagner is set in the pleasant village of Kamp Bornhofen. Dinner is included on each night and, as well, a FREE BAR with draught beer, red or white wine and soft drinks between 8.30 and 11pm.

Optional excursions:

- Koblenz - £9.95 pp
- Rudesheim - £9.95 pp

Special offer: Book both excursions for just £17.95pp

4 Days • 3 Nights

19 September from £149.95

Taste of Southern Ireland

Lawlers Hotel

Included excursions:

- A visit to the mediaeval city of Kilkenny with its many walking trails through the pretty laneways

- A visit to the thriving maritime city of Waterford

5 Days • 4 Nights: 19 September from £199.95

Treasures of Italy by First Class Coach

We stay at the charming spa resort of Fuiggl. Holiday highlights include visits to Rome with a City Guide and visit to Sorrento. Optional visit to the island of Capri - £59.95pp

8 Days • 7 Nights: 01 October from £449.95

Spain by Super Coach

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Camping Solmar Super Savers

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02 September from £139.95

Continental Christmas Markets



Berlin, Potsdam & Dresden Christmas Markets

7 Days • 6 Nights - 4* Hotel in Berlin

28 November from £379.95

Nuremberg & Würzburg Christmas Markets

4 Days • 3 Nights - 09 December from £189.95

Budapest Christmas Market

4* Mercure Budapest, Buda

6 Days • 5 Nights - 08 December from £299.95

Black Forest, Switzerland & Alsace

5 Days • 4 Nights - 05 December from £199.95

Paris Christmas Markets

3 Days • 2 Nights - 02 December from £99.95

Luxembourg & Trier Christmas Markets - with Free Bar

4 Days • 3 Nights - 28 November from £189.95

Salzburg Christmas Markets

6 Days • 5 Nights - 03 December from £299.95

Rothenburg & Nuremberg Christmas Markets with Free Bar

4 Days • 3 Nights - 02 & 12 December from £199.95

Mediaeval Prague & Rothenburg Christmas Markets

7 Days • 6 Nights - 03 December from £299.95

Black Forest Christmas Market with Free Bar

4 Days • 3 Nights - 09 December from £189.95

Cologne Christmas Markets with Free Bar

4 Days • 3 Nights - 25 & 28 November, 02 & 09 December from £179.95

Germany's Christmas Markets

4 Days • 3 Nights - 05 & 13 December from £99.95

Bruges, Ostend & Valkenburg Christmas Markets

3 Days • 2 Nights - 09 December from £139.95

Cologne & Aachen Christmas Markets with Free Bar

4 Days • 3 Nights - 25 November from £189.95

Brussels & Bruges Christmas Markets

3 Days • 2 Nights - 25 November from £139.95

Antwerp & Ghent Christmas Markets

4* Crowne Plaza, Antwerp - 3 Days • 2 Nights

09 & 16 December from £119.95

5* Christmas Market Break

5* Kempinski Hotel - Dukes Palace, Bruges

02 December - 3 Days • 2 Nights from £299.95

Disney® Magic from £69.95

A Magical Day at Disneyland® Paris -

includes 1 day ticket to Disneyland® Park or Walt Disney Studios® Park

09 September, 14 Oct, 09 Dec from £69.95

Summer Specials - 4 Days • 3 Nights with

2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe

28 August from £179.95

October Half Term Special - 4 Days • 3 Nights with

2 Day Hopper Ticket

Disney's Hotel Santa Fe

24 October from £229.95

Disneyland® Paris - staying at Vienna

International Dream Castle Hotel - 4* Luxury

4 Days • 3 Nights with 2 Day Hopper Ticket

28 August, 24 October from £249.95

Mickey's Magical Fireworks & Bonfire

3 Days • 2 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket

Disney's Hotel Santa Fe</

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Digital



● BBC News

Fourth Quarter 2-12-00

Headlined 240 in Plain Sight
240 ITV Nightscreen 240 ITV
Joining Movie

Meeting of the Sporting
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Thomas & Flexis (R) 1992
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VINTAGE TV
 2.00 Major Moments: 6.00 Vintage Sound:
 From The Saturday Zoo London Calling, Capital
 comic and dancoblog from The Store to
 The Pickle, Squeeze to Bowie, The Clash to
 Madness and the Jam - dancoblog from
 London 2000. 8.20 Alternative Vintage.
 An exciting mix of the best alternative pop, from
 Pink Floyd to the Sex Pistols. 9.20 Rock
 Legends: 10.00 Glen Killock - in Conversation.

BOOKS
200 Two Door Cinema Club & *Interiors* ©
Reading 8.00 Doctor Who Confidential 8.95
Pulp © Reading 10.00 The Stroke & Jane
Aldrich © Reading

BBC FOUR
200 The Blue Planet 8.00 *Billie Waring*; *Mr*
Rugby League 0.00 *Grand Prix The 100*
Years 10.00 *Flm: American The Bill*
Story (2010) 11.30 *Bill Hicks: Revelations*

9.55 **Frank: 6.00 One Tree Hill: 2.00 The Big Bang Theory: 2.55** **How I Met Your Mother: 8.55**
Frank: 8.00 The Bachelor: 8.00

FILE#
150 Roofs Coll (2008) 500 Black Knight
(2009) 650 X-Act The Last Stand (2008)
000 Taken (2008) A former CIA agent put his
old skills to use in working his way through a
gang of European sex traffickers. Thriller,
drama (1998) (R) (5.5/10) (2008)

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Digital



Friday

[illegible]

Hit (1994) Second World War drama, starring Gregory Peck, 1.15 Diagnostic Murder, 2.00 Animal Park, 3.00 Weekend Link, 3.45 The Billy Elliot/Food Train of Britain, 4.30 Raging Bull, 5.00 The Great Outdoors, 5.30 Mouth to Mouth, 6.00 Eggheads, 6.30 Eggheads, 7.00 South African Wildlife, 7.30 Renton/roar and the Giant Egg, 8.30 Gardener's World, 9.00 Wagon on Woodhouse, 9.30 The Rob Brydon Show, 10.30 Newswatch/Weather, 11.05 The Secret World of Atlantis, 12.05 Peckinpah Festival Highlights, 1.15 First Song of Sorrow, (2008) Drama, starring Natalie Press, 2.55 Clope.

3.30 *ITV News*, **Weather**, **155** *Regional News*,
Weather, **2:00** *Dickinson*, **2:30** *Local*, **3:00**
PM *Local*, **3:30** *Local*, **4:00** *Local*, **4:30**
PM *Midknight Murders*, **5:00** *The Choice*, **5:30**
PM *Regional News*, **Weather**, **6:30** *ITV News*,
Weather, **7:00** *Emmerdale*, **7:30** *Coronation Street*,
8:00 *The Evening News* — *Howto Get a Job*, *Torquay*,
8:30 *Regional News*, **9:00** *Friday Night*, **9:30**
ITV News, **10:00** *At Ten*, **10:30** *Regional News*,
Weather, **10:35** *First Look*, **11:00** *Thriller* coupled
with *Hunting Creek*, **11:30** *Local*, **12:00** *News*,
12:30 *Local*, **1:05** *First Look*, **1:30** *Random*, **1:55**
Dead Man (1971) **3:00** *ITV Nightline*, **5:30** *ITV*
Monitoring News.

Channel 4 **5:00** *The Thelma People*
5:15 *Local*, **5:30** *The Hoobos*, **5:45**
6:35 *The Hoobos*, **6:55** *Pretty Specimen*, **7:30**
PM *Local*, **8:00** *Local*, **8:30** *Local*, **9:00**
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PM

[illegible]

Wright, Samuel Lee, 1945, *Wright*, 125.00
 1.15: *Lawrence Sanders*, 1945, *Big Brother*, 1.00
 1.15: *Meatball*, Minor, 1945, *Meatball*, 2.00
 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, 1945, 1.5 Fims
 Stranger to Love, (1908) 5.00 S Movie at 5.00
 Weather, 5.00 Neighborhood, 1945, 6.00 Meerkat
 Minor, 1945, 6.25 OK TV, 200 S Movie at 7.25
 Ocean State, 1945 S Movie Update at 7.00 The Gaudy
 1.15: *Meatball*, Minor, 1945, *Big Brother*, 1.00
 Evidence, 1945 The Evidence, 11.00 Celebrity Big
 Brother 1.00 on the Side, 12.00 Super Coping, 1945
 Motorcycle Mixtill, 1945 Mini Guest, 1945
 County Doctor, 1945 5.00 Wildlife SOS, 1945
 House Doctor, 1945



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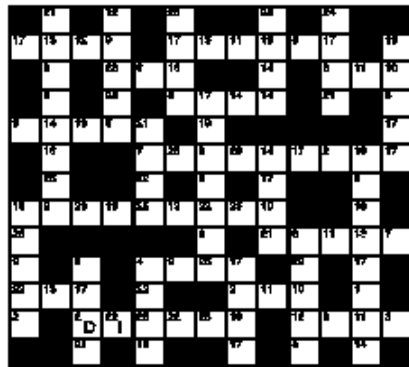
01922 627772

Brain Gym

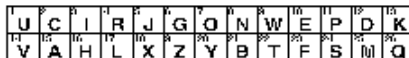
No.131

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Presumably I've bent on breaking the law (4,8)
- Send a telegram for a conductor (5)
- Language used in talking off (5)
- Shed among the conkers (5)
- Give for a reason to use in the dark? (5,4)
- A result of some consequence (6)
- Raise a hand to a superior? (6)
- There's a lot to be said for having it (9)
- Time you can't live without (5)
- Board and fare (5,2)
- Cluck with the bear about four (5)
- Hardly descriptive of the time a final demand is met (5,6,3)

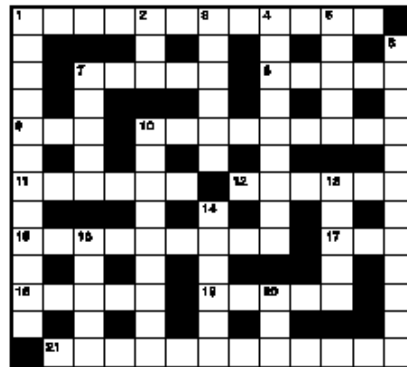
Quick Clues:

Across

- Foetus (12)
- Bosony (5)
- Conner (5)
- Brink (5)
- Hazardous (9)
- Emotional shock (6)
- Rigorous (6)
- Chloric (5)
- Kiosk (5)
- Translucent gem (5)
- Power (5)
- Accidental (12)

Down

- Conspicuous (12)
- Crumb (5)
- Shun (5)
- Loamy (5)
- Fashion (5)
- Inclination (12)
- Channel of communication (5)
- Deceive (5)
- Radious (6)
- Barony (5)
- Obtain (5)



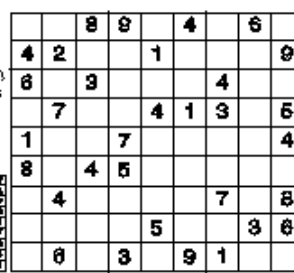
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 4. Tumbler, 5. Answer, 10. Sinner, 11. Money, 12. P.A. Hand, 13. Tumbler, 14. Outlaw, 15. Sinner, 16. Sinner, 17. Money, 18. P.A. Hand, 19. Tumbler, 20. Outlaw, 21. Sinner, 22. P.A. Hand, 23. Money, 24. Tumbler, 25. Answer, 26. Sinner. Down: 1. Sinner, 2. P.A. Hand, 3. Money, 4. Tumbler, 5. Answer, 6. Sinner, 7. Money, 8. P.A. Hand, 9. Tumbler, 10. Sinner, 11. Money, 12. P.A. Hand, 13. Tumbler, 14. Outlaw, 15. Sinner, 16. Sinner, 17. Money, 18. P.A. Hand, 19. Tumbler, 20. Outlaw, 21. Sinner, 22. P.A. Hand, 23. Money, 24. Tumbler, 25. Answer, 26. Sinner.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is 'A'. The words are 'GOAT', 'HAT', and 'JAG'.



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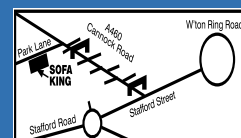
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<p>MASON 3+2 £699 After Trade In</p>	<p>HANNAH 3+1+1 £599 After Trade In</p>
<p>WINCHESTER 3+2 £799 After Trade In</p>	<p>BYRON CORNER £399 After Trade In</p>
<p>JULIET 3+1+1 £899 After Trade In</p>	<p>RECLINER CHAIRS, SHANGRILA £175</p>
<p>WINE 3+1+1 £149 Return</p>	<p>QUEEN ANN CHAIR £120</p>
<p>CREAM 3+1+1 £99 Return</p>	

<p>ASHTON DINING SET £199</p>	<p>NEW ORLEANS 3 DOOR WARDROBE £219</p>	<p>NEW ORLEANS 2 DRAWER BEDSIDE CHEST £39</p>	<p>BUDGET DOUBLE DIVAN NON STORAGE £99 WITH STORAGE £99</p>
<p>TOSCANO Sleigh £199</p>	<p>MEMORY OPEN COIL 4ft 6in DIVAN £199</p>	<p>ORTHO DIVAN 4ft 6in Backcare Tufted Ortho Divan £169</p>	<p>PRADO 4ft 6in Double Bed Frame £99</p>
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Bungalow boasting smart conservatory



French windows lead from conservatory to garden

A DECEPTIVE and beautifully presented detached bungalow Elms Lane in the commuter village of Shareshill is for sale for offers in the region of £249,950.

The property is close to open fields yet within easy driving distance of many major surrounding town centres and the Midlands motorway network.

Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed, the accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall/stairs, charming front lounge, separate rear dining room, two well proportioned bedrooms each with built-in bedroom furniture, extended breakfast kitchen, conservatory, main bathroom/WC and additional shower room with toilet.

Instant

There are also two spacious loft rooms providing additional living and storage space, as well as a single car garage, driveway parking and landscaped, mature gardens.

The lounge measures 13ft 8in by 12ft and has a feature

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@expressandstar.co.uk

chimney breast wall while the rear dining area is 12ft by 7ft 6in. The refitted kitchen – 16ft 2in by 6ft 6in – is comprehensively equipped with a range of base and wall units, four ring gas hob and built-in oven with separate grill and extractor fan over.

The family bathroom has a contemporary white suite comprising panelled bath with power shower and glazed screen, pedestal hand basin and low level WC, while the shower room has cubicle with glazed screen, Triton instant electric shower, vanity wash hand basin and WC.

To arrange a viewing contact Marriam & Co estate agents on 01922 404446.



This attractive bungalow in Elms Lane, Shareshill village has an asking price of £249,950

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Bloxwich Hall
Elmore Court
Elmore Green
Road
WS3 2QW

Central Walsall

Property Shop
Bridge Street
Walsall
WS1 1EW

Darlaston

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Offices to let - available now. 3 x 1000 to 1400 sqft each. Prominent location on A34, A5, M6 J11 and J17 of the M6 toll road. Available on flexible lease terms.

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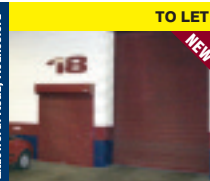


TO LET

NEW

Retail units / serviced sector. Offices / health based uses. From 180 sqft upwards to 900 sqft. Attractive / large shop windows. Flexible lease terms. Close to town centre car parks.

Anglesey Business Park
Lludlow Road, Hednesford



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Industrial / storage units available now - 700 to 4000 sqft variety of sizes. Flexible lease terms. Roller shutters, WCs and ancillary offices in most units.

Birch Business Park
Progress Drive, Cannock



TO LET

NEW

Small starter / storage units available now to let. Roller shutter door access / WCs. Well located close to A5, A34 and M6 toll. Flexible lease terms available.

Towers Plaza, Rugeley
Whitelhouse Road, Brereton



TO LET

NEW

Modern industrial / warehouse units to let from 1500 sqft. Available on flexible lease terms. Roller shutters / parking / WCs etc. Prominent location on the A51 Rugeley bypass.

Whitehouse Court
Broad Street, Bridgworth



TO LET

Offices / small niche retail uses. Units available now from 300 sqft to 600 sqft. Just off A34 / A5 and M6 toll J 17. Dedicated car park. Attractive large shop windows. Flexible lease terms.

Ascon Court
Stafford Tech Park, Beaconsfield



TO LET

NEW

Modern office units to let from 600 sqft. Available on flexible lease terms. Cat 2 lighting, DDA WCs, onsite café etc. Prominent location on the A513 Stafford eastern bypass.

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Victoria Street, Willenhall **NEW**



Deceptively spacious 2 bedroom mid terrace house benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing and offering no upward chain. Further comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and rear yard and garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£85,000**

Princes Road, Willenhall, West Mids



A four bedroom modern detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, guest W.C., fitted kitchen/diner with utility area, lounge, family bathroom, 4 bedrooms, master with en-suite, rear garden, off road parking and garage. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£194,995**

Shoreham Close, Willenhall



EXTENDED & well presented 5 BEDROOM DETACHED house, central heating, upvc double glazing, 18ft lounge, 15ft fitted breakfast kitchen, sun lounge, study, laundry, 2 bathrooms, integral garage, large drive, rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£199,950**

Victoria Street, Willenhall



Deceptively spacious 3 bedroom terrace house benefiting from gas central heating & containing a wealth of period features. Briefly comprising hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom, rear yard & garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£95,000**

Lowe Avenue, Darlaston



Refurbished, improved and upgraded, three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of no upward chain. UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for a young family the property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, fitted kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens with a large 100 sq ft rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£70,000**

Albion Road, Willenhall **NEW**



REFURBISHED, DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS VILLA RESIDENCE, 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND NO UPWARD CHAIN. Further comprising reception hall, lounge, dining room, 15ft NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN, NEWLY FITTED BATHROOM and lawn maintenance services. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£110,000**

Archer Road, Leamore Leamore



Good sized plot extended and improved with further potential for extensions and possible building plot at rear subject to planning permission. Three bedroom and terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking to front. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£144,995**

Ferrers Close, Park Hall, Wolverhampton



WOLVERHAMPTON - 15 MIN DRIVE - 600 SQ FT 3 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE WITH 100 SQ FT GARDEN. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking to front. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£169,995**

Kingfisher Grove, Coppice Farm, Willenhall



4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE ON POPULAR COPPICE FARM ESTATE, NO UPWARD CHAIN, GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING, hall, guest w.c., lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, re-fitted bathroom and en-suite to master bedroom, garage, front drive, rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£199,950**

Evans Street, Willenhall **NEW**



Well presented 3 bedroom mid terrace in cul-de-sac benefiting from gas central heating & upvc double glazing. Further comprising entrance hall, guest w.c., lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, front drive & garage, south facing garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£99,995**

Poplar Avenue, Bentley, Walsall



Presenting a spacious 3 bedroom and residence. The property, which is gas centrally heated and double glazed would make an excellent family home and has excellent transport links. The accommodation is approached by a stone porch and briefly comprises a reception hall, guest w.c., recently re-fitted kitchen, lounge, utility room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and a large front garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£114,995**

Uplands Avenue, Willenhall



3 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW, benefiting central heating, partial double glazing & no upward chain. Further comprising entrance porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, verandah, garage, garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£125,000**

Evans Street, Portobello, Willenhall



A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of no upward chain, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking to front. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£94,950**

Wallace Road, Bradley, Bilston



BRIDLE PATH - 15 MIN DRIVE - 600 SQ FT 3 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE WITH 100 SQ FT GARDEN. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking to front. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£40,000**

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Victoria Street, Willenhall



A brand new 3 bedroom luxury modern terrace family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted kitchen/diner and no upward chain. These excellent properties briefly comprise, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, utility room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking to front. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£99,995**

Granville Street, Willenhall



★★ INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ★★ LAND FOR SALE ★★ PLANNING PERMISSION FOR 4 X TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS ★★ CLOSE TO WILLENHALL TOWN ★★ OPEN TO OFFERS ★★ MUST BE SOLD ★★ OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£89,995**

Strathmore Drive, Coseley, Bilston



Much improved, well presented 3 storey, 3 bedroom end terrace house benefiting from central heating, gas central heating, double glazing, further comprising entrance porch, hall, w.c., laundry room, lounge, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking to front. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£157,500**

Sneyd Lane, Essington



WELL PRESENTED, DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS EXTENDED DETACHED HOUSE IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION WITH SOUTH FACING MATURE GARDEN, central heating, double glazing, 18ft lounge, 15ft fitted breakfast kitchen, extended dining room, 20ft master bedroom with fitted wardrobe, 2 further bedrooms, fitted bathroom, downstairs w.c., entrance porch & hall & 6 car drive to garage. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£234,950**

Willenhall Street, Darlaston



• A Deceptively Spacious 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
 • Gas Central Heating
 • Double Glazing (as specified)
 • Off Road Parking
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£114,995**

Cobden Street, Darlaston, Darlaston



• A Surprisingly Spacious 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
 • Gas Central Heating
 • Double Glazing (as specified)
 • Dining Room with Ornate Cast Iron Fireplace
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£89,995**

Princes Road, Darlaston, Darlaston



Modern detached house, 3 bedrooms, master with en-suite & fitted wardrobes, central heating, double glazing, 15ft conservatory, 18ft lounge, fitted kitchen, hall, guest w.c., family bathroom, integral garage, front drive & rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£169,950**

Dillows Lane, Willenhall



A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This improved property briefly comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious through lounge/diner, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£99,950**

Magness Crescent, Willenhall



Well presented, extended 3/4 bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. It is sought after location the property briefly comprises, refitted kitchen, utility room, spacious lounge, large front and rear extension, bedroom, bathroom on 1st floor, re-fitted family bathroom with shower, garage, off road parking and rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£129,995**

Great Bridge Road, Bilston **REDUCED**



A modern 2 bedroom end of terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, electric heating and no upward chain. Ideal for first time buyers or landlord the property further comprises, reception hall, kitchen, lounge, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£65,000**

Temple Road, Willenhall



★★★ IDEAL INVESTMENT OR 1ST PURCHASE ★★★ 2 bedroom first floor flat benefiting from upvc double glazing & gas central heating (where specified) and offering no upward chain. Further comprising entrance hall, stairs, landing, lounge, kitchen & bathroom. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£52,500**

Station Street, Darlaston



• A 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
 • Ideally Located for Walsall & Darlaston Town Centres
 • No Upward Chain
 • Ideal Investment Opportunity
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£64,995**

Dorset Road, Darlaston



• A Period 3 Bedroom Butt Detached Home
 • Gas Central Heating
 • Many Original Features Remain
 • No Upward Chain
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£128,495**

Waverley Road, Darlaston



• A 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
 • Gas Centrally Heated
 • Double Glazed (as specified)
 • No Upward Chain
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£69,995**

VIRTUAL TOURS

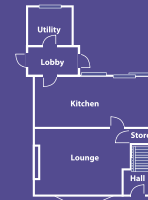


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Goldby Drive, Wednesbury



A modern 3 story end town house. The property, which has been presented to a very high standard benefits gas central heating and is double glazed throughout. The accommodation comprises: reception hall, 3 bedrooms, guest wc, super through lounge/kitchen/diner, family bathroom, en-suite shower room, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and integrated garage.

£650 pcm

Comberley Rise, West Bromwich



A Modern, 4 Bedroom, 3 Storey House. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accommodation Comprises, Hall with Shower/WC, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom/WC, Master Bedroom with En Suite, and Four further bedrooms, Rear Garden, Driveway Off Road Parking and Garage.

£750 pcm

Holy Hedge Road, West Brom



A superbly appointed and stylishly presented four bedroom Victorian semi-detached property. This impressive property boasts a spacious layout and finished to a high which requires internal viewing to appreciate the level of accommodation which briefly comprises of Reception hall, two reception rooms, Spacious fitted kitchen, Four good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Private rear garden, Driveway with ample parking, Garage, Dg and Gch. No pets or Dss

£850 pcm

Farm End Close, West Bromwich



A Modern, 5 Bedroom, 3 Storey House. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accommodation Comprises, Hall with Shower/WC, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom/WC, Master Bedroom with En Suite, and Four further bedrooms, Rear Garden, Driveway Off Road Parking and Garage.

£850 pcm

Smithmore Crescent, West Bromwich



A Modern, 6 Bedroom, 3 Storey House. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accommodation Comprises, Hall with Shower/WC, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom/WC, Master Bedroom with En Suite, Five Further Bedrooms, Rear Garden, Driveway Off Road Parking and Garage. DSS Considered.

£895 pcm

City Road, Tividale



A superb opportunity to acquire the well presented and deceptively spacious three bedroom detached cottage, situated in a quiet cul de sac in a popular residential neighbourhood with easy access to M69 motorway. This impressive property offers a spacious layout with a high standard of accommodation and would make a comfortable family home. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room, Modern fitted kitchen, three good size bedrooms, Luxury fitted bathroom, Cella, Garage, Large elevated rear garden, Dg and Gch. No Dss.

£895 pcm

Oxford Way Tipton



Modern 3 Storey End Town House. Gas Central Heating, upvc double glazing & briefly comprising reception hall, 2 guest cloakrooms, lounge, kitchen built in oven/hob, dining area, study room / possible 4th bedroom, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage, rear garden. Part Furnished.

£650 pcm

Broadwater Road, Wednesbury



A superbly appointed and stylishly presented three bedroom extended semi-detached property. Situated in a popular location with easy access to motorway networks, the property has been maintained to a high standard and offers a well planned and spacious layout making internal viewing essential to fully appreciate. Briefly comprising of Reception hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Modern fitted kitchen, Further reception room, Three good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Landscaped private rear garden, Driveway, Dg and Gch. No Dss.

£650 pcm

Hollyhock Court, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



Stunning new apartments available in the heart of Wolverhampton Hollyhock Court is situated in a desirable residential area of Wolverhampton, within a mile of the City Centre.

£650 pcm

Kenilworth Close, Tipton



A most attractive and deceptively spacious three bedroom modern detached property, situated in a well established popular neighbourhood the property is decorated to a high standard and requires internal viewing to fully appreciate the level of accommodation, briefly comprising of Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Conservatory, Guest wc, Three good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Private rear garden, Garage, Dg and Gch. No Dss.

£650 pcm

Keyte Close, Tipton



A well proportioned and stylishly presented modern three bedroom semi-detached property situated in a popular residential neighbourhood close to excellent local amenities and close to motorway networks. The property comes Unfurnished, furnished if required, briefly comprising of Reception hall, Lounge/Diner, Modern fitted kitchen, Master bedroom with fitted units, two further bedrooms, Family bathroom, Garage Dg and Gch. No Dss, No Pets

£600 pcm

Hollyhock Court, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



Stunning new apartments available in the heart of Wolverhampton Hollyhock Court is situated in a desirable residential area of Wolverhampton, within a mile of the City Centre.

£595 pcm

Waite Road, Willenhall



A superbly appointed and stylishly presented three bedroom traditional semi-detached property. Situated in a popular location with easy access to local amenities and motorway networks. The property enjoys a good standard of accommodation and briefly comprises of Lounge, Modern fitted dining kitchen, Three good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch. No DSS

£550 pcm

Ward Street Ettinghall



A well presented three bedroom semi-detached property offering spacious layout and high standard of decoration. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted kitchen, Good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Private rear garden, Dg, Gch, Private rear garden. No DSS

£550 pcm

Harrington Croft, West Bromwich



A superbly appointed and stylishly presented modern second floor two bedroom apartment situated on a popular development with easy access to motorway networks and local amenities. The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation on offer briefly comprises of reception hall, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, communal gardens, allocated parking space.

£550 pcm

Monkgate Drive, West Bromwich



A modern first floor apartment, fully furnished and has the benefit of double glazing and electric heating. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen with oven hob and extractor, bathroom with shower over bath wash basin and toilet and two bedrooms. Viewing

£525 pcm

Fraser Street, Bilston



A two bedroom middle terrace property having the benefit of no upward chain, gas central heating and majority UPVC double glazing. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord the property briefly comprises, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden.

£525 pcm

Hillbury Drive, Coppice Farm, Willenhall



TO LET: Modern 2 bedroom detached home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge (with feature fireplace), re-fitted breakfast kitchen, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking for several vehicles and garage.

£525 pcm

Thunderbolt Way, Birchfields, Tipton



A modern three story town house which benefits from central heating and double glazing. Briefly comprising reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen with oven and hob, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. The property has a gravel fore garden, rear garden and separate garage.

£500 pcm

Martin Street, Parkfields, Wolverhampton



A well presented three bedroom traditional bay window terrace situated in a well established popular location the property has enjoyed extensive refurbishment throughout and offers a high standard of accommodation which requires internal viewing to fully appreciate. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining room, Modern well equipped fitted kitchen, Refitted downstairs bathroom, Three good size bedrooms, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch. No DSS

£500 pcm

Hawksford Crescent, Low Hill, Wolverhampton



A well presented three bedroom traditional bay fronted semi-detached property, situated in a quiet Cul de sac this impressive property has enjoyed extensive refurbishment and internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate the level of accommodation which briefly comprises of Lounge, Refitted modern fitted kitchen, Three good size bedrooms, Refitted bathroom, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch.

£500 pcm

Durham Drive, West Bromwich



A Modern Two Bedroom End Terrace House. Briefly comprising hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom/WC. Off road parking to front. Viewing 0121 525 5520.

£500 pcm

Elizabeth Mews, Tividale



A well presented 2 bedroom middle town house with gas fire central heating and double glazing. The property comprises - reception hall, fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob, extractor, washing machine, dishwasher, fridge and freezer, lounge with staircase to first floor, 2 bedrooms, rear with built in storage cupboard, bathroom with shower over bath, wash basin & wc, allocated car parking space and enclosed rear garden. View 0121 525 5520

£495 pcm

Stanton Grove, Tipton



*****UNDER APPLICATION***** A well presented modern two bedroom semi-detached, situated on a popular residential development, the property benefits from lounge/diner, modern fitted kitchen and three good size bedrooms DG, GCH.

£495 pcm

Mason Street, West Bromwich



*****UNDER APPLICATION***** A modern 1st floor apartment, having the benefit of double glazing, electric heating and security entrance doors. Briefly comprising reception hall, lounge, open plan fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob and extractor, also with integrated washer/dryer and fridge freezer, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, wash basin & wc. The property has an allocated parking space.

£495 pcm

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall, Wolverhampton



A luxury 2 bedroom spacious brand new apartment having the benefit of UPVC double and triple glazing, gas central heating and fitted intruder alarm. These splendid larger than average properties briefly comprise, reception hallways, good size lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (ensuite shower room to master), family bathroom and allocated parking spaces.

£495 pcm

Westfield Road, Bilston



A well presented semi-detached property. The property offers a good layout and briefly comprises of Reception Hallway, Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Two good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Laundry Room, Out-house, Private rear garden, Dg and Gch. Unfurnished.

£495 pcm

Ferguson Drive, Tipton



A well presented modern two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular development the property offers a good standard of accommodation and briefly comprises of Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Double bedroom, Bathroom, GCH and parking. No DSS D425

£495 pcm

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall



Luxury 2 bedroom spacious apartments having the benefit of UPVC double & triple glazing, gas central heating & fitted intruder alarm. These splendid larger than average properties briefly comprise, reception hall, good size lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (ensuite shower room to master), bathroom/wc & allocated parking spaces.

£495 pcm

Tompson Road, West Bromwich



A spacious well presented and deceptively spacious two bedroom terraced house, situated in a well established popular neighbourhood with easy access to the town centre and briefly comprises of Lounge, Fitted kitchen, Two double bedrooms, Family bathroom, Garage, Dg and Gch. No Dss.

£475 pcm

Wedgebury Close, College Fields, Wednesbury



A modern, 1st floor apartment, having the benefit of double glazing, electric heating and security entrance doors. Briefly comprising reception hall, lounge, open plan fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob and extractor, also with integrated washer/dryer and fridge freezer, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, wash basin & wc. The property has an allocated parking space.

£495 pcm

Corporation Street, Wednesbury



A well presented two bedroom traditional terrace. Situated in a popular location close to excellent local amenities and with easy access to M6 Motorway networks. Briefly comprising of Two reception rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two double bedrooms, Family bathroom, Dg and Gch.

£475 pcm

Hollywell Street, Coseley



A well presented modern style first floor apartment set in a popular residential location with just a short distance from Sedgley town centre and is decorated to a high standard of accommodation. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Double bedroom, Dg, Gch and communal gardens. No Dss

£425 pcm

Star Street, Bradmore, Wolverhampton



A modern one bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular location just a short distance from Bantock Park and close to City centre the property offers a good standard of accommodation and briefly comprises of Lounge, Modern fitted kitchen, Double bedroom, Bathroom, GCH and parking. No DSS D425

£400 pcm

Millpool House, Lyndsey Road, Hateley Heath



A modern 1 bedroom first floor apartment with gas fire central heating, double glazing, allocated car parking space and security entrance doors. The property comprises, reception hall with storage cupboard, lounge open plan fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob & extractor, bathroom with shower over bath. Allocated parking. Viewing 0121 525 5520

£400 pcm

Moreville Croft, Bilston



Well presented first floor apartment on popular residential development, having double glazing and electric heating the property comprises hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, parking space

£375 pcm



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KEWSTOKE ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Four Bedroomed Detached House
- Refitted Kitchen with Granite worktops and integral Appliances
- Refitted guests W.C. and Bathroom
- Side Driveway and Garage
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- UPVC double glazing and Gas central Heating

OFFERS £184,995



HONEYBOURNE WAY, KINGFISHER EST, WILLENHALL

- Link Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Ground Floor W.C.
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Conservatory

OFFERS £169,950



LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Detached Bungalow
- Possible Development Potential
- Spacious Accommodation
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Garage and Extensive Driveway
- Substantial Gardens

CASH OFFERS £165,000



CLARKES LANE, WILLENHALL

- Spacious DETACHED Home
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Side Garage
- Potential to Extend (Subject to Planning Permission)

OFFERS £149,950



CHAUCER AVENUE, WILLENHALL

- Modern Three Bedroomed Semi-detached
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Front Driveway and rear garden
- Side Garage
- Possible opportunity to buy on 50% shared ownership

OFFERS £124,950 or £82,500 for 50% share



MARDEN CLOSE, WILLENHALL

- Well Presented Modern Style Semi
- Two Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Attractive Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen with Hob & Oven
- Ample off-road Parking

OFFERS £114,950



LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Three Bed Semi
- Deceptively Spacious
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room with W.C.

OFFERS £114,950



QUEENS LEA (OFF LUCKNOW RD), WILLENHALL

- Three bedroomed semi-detached
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen with large dining area
- Off road parking facilities
- Perfect for first time buyer

OFFERS £109,950



BLOXWICH ROAD SOUTH, WILLENHALL

- Three bedroomed end terrace
- Deceptively spacious
- Two reception rooms
- Spacious kitchen
- Utility room
- Extensive double glazing and central heating

OFFERS £92,500

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BROADWAY NORTH, WALSALL

- ★ Extended Detached Property
- ★ Four/Five Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge/Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen & Sitting Room
- ★ Bathroom & En-Suite
- ★ Driveway & Rear Garden

£950pcm



COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON, WEDNESBURY

- ★ Fully Refurbished
- ★ Mid Terrace Property
- ★ Two Reception Rooms
- ★ Two Bedrooms & Luxury Bathroom
- ★ Newly Fitted Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£525pcm



COXMOOR CLOSE, BLOXWICH

- ★ Modern Townhouse
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge & Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen & Bathroom
- ★ Conservatory & Parking Space
- ★ DG & GCH

£525pcm



WALSALL ROAD, WILLENHALL

- ★ End Terrace House
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Bathroom & En-suite
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Off road parking

£510pcm



FERNLEIGH ROAD, WALSALL

- ★ First Floor Flat
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Fitted Kitchen
- ★ UPVC DG
- ★ Electric Under Floor Heating
- ★ Shower Room

£475pcm



GRAND JUNCTION WAY, TAMEBRIDGE

- ★ Two bedroom end townhouse
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen/Breakfast room
- ★ GCH/DG
- ★ Gardens & allocated parking
- ★ No DSS, No Children, No Pets, No Smokers

£450pcm



PARK AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS

- ★ Traditional Semi
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Kitchen/ Dining Room
- ★ Lounge & Bathroom
- ★ Gardens & Parking
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£445pcm



MAIN STREET, STONNALL

- ★ Split Level Flat
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gas Central Heating
- ★ Part Double Glazed

£400pcm



THE CRESCENT, WALSALL

- ★ Ground Floor Flat
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Cellar
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ DG & GCH

£345pcm

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Princes Avenue Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
- Utility Room●Family Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Front & Rear Gardens●Sorry NO DHSS

£675 PCM



Field Road Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite shower room
- Garage & Car Parking Space to Front
- Rear Garden●Downstairs W.C.●Sorry no DHSS

£650 PCM



Keepers Gate Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- One Reception room
- Integrated Cooker & Washer/Dryer
- En-Suite●Electric Heating
- Double Glazing●Sorry No DHSS

£580 PCM



Borneo Street Walsall

- Three Bed House
- Two Reception rooms
- Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Rear Garden●Sorry No DHSS

£550 PCM



Field Road Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces Rear Garden
- Downstairs W.C.●Sorry no DHSS

£550 PCM



Windrush Close

- Two Bedroom Coach House
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- One Reception Room●Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom●Rear Garden
- Allocated Parking●Sorry NO DHSS

£550 PCM



Squires Grove New Invention

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom, En-Suite●Double Glazing
- Electric Heating●Sorry No DHSS

£525 PCM



Penblebury Close Walsall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£525 PCM



Sycamore Road Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Porch●Lounge●Dining Room
- Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking●Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



West Bromwich Road Walsall

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating●Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Furness Close Bloxwich

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge●Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing, Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Harrison Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Through Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom●Downstairs WC
- Front & Rear Gardens●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating●DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Bloxwich Road Bloxwich

- Two Bed End Terrace
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Two Bathrooms
- Double Glazing & Heating
- Rear Garden & Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Tanners Court Walsall

- Two Bed Apartment
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking●Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM



Alderley Crescent Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Central Heating
- Off Road Parking●Sorry no DHSS

£425 PCM



Yemscroft, Lichfield Road Rushall

- Two Bed Top Floor Flat
- Lounge●Bathroom
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Sorry no DHSS, Smokers or Pets

£450 PCM



Kent Street Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen●Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Church Walk, Parish Court Blakenhall Heath

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Secure Entrance●Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Rowland Street Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Station Road Rushall

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge●Dining Room
- Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sorry no DHSS Accepted or Pets

£450 PCM



Beatrice Street Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Chepstow Way Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Usk Close Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Rear Garden●Off Road Parking
- Double Glazed●Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Borneo Street Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms●Dining Room●Kitchen
- Family Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Majority Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Manorhouse Close Walsall

- One & Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

From £435 PCM



West Street Leamore

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Blakenall Heath & Guild Court Walker Road

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating●Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

From £425 PCM



Marton Court Bloxwich

- One & Two Bed Apartments
- Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Lounge●Double Glazing
- Heating●DHSS Accepted

From £400 PCM



Thornbury Road Walsall

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge●Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry no DHSS

£395 PCM



Argyle Court Willenhall

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen●Large Bedroom
- Central Heating●Secure Allocated Parking
- Double Glazing●Sorry No DHSS

£390 PCM



Lincoln Road Walsall

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Harrison Street Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Bedroom
- Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Station Road Rushall

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge●Dining Room
- Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens●DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Bloxwich Road Walsall

- One & Two Bedroom Flats
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

From £360 PCM



Harrison Street Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing●Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM



Barracks Lane Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM

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HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
CROXLEY GARDENS

- * Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £108,500
- * Lounge and fitted breakfast kitchen
- * Upstairs bathroom
- * Ample off road parking



WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE

- * Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Lounge and fitted breakfast kitchen
- * Garden to front and rear
- * Gas central heating
- * £110,000 OFFERS



SHORTHEATH
BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH

- * Considerably improved traditional style detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Two reception rooms
- * £210,000 OFFERS NO CHAIN
- * Refitted kitchen with appliances
- * Carpet and ample off road parking
- * Gas central heating
- * Internal viewing recommended



ESSINGTON
ROSEWOOD GARDENS

- * Splendidly appointed extended modern style detached residence
- * Four bedrooms
- * Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- * £250,000 OFFERS VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- * Superb 23ft refitted dining kitchen
- * Excellent UPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Large refitted family bathroom with separate shower outside
- * Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows



ESSINGTON
ROSEWOOD GARDENS

- * Splendidly appointed extended modern style detached residence
- * Four bedrooms
- * Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- * £250,000 OFFERS VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- * Superb 23ft refitted dining kitchen
- * Excellent UPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Large refitted family bathroom with separate shower outside
- * Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows



WILLENHALL
LINCOLN AVENUE

- * Traditional style town house in popular location
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazed windows
- * £89,995 NO CHAIN
- * Spacious 19ft through lounge
- * Play study room
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Black paved driveway



WALSALL
FLEMING PLACE

- * Pleasantly appointed town house
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * 19ft fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- * Upstairs fitted bathroom with shower
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * £89,950



WILLENHALL
MAGNESS CRESCENT

- * Splendidly appointed, considerably improved semi
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £145,000 OFFERS
- * Well equipped refitted kitchen with appliances
- * Excellent refitted bathroom with separate shower outside
- * Concrete print driveway



WILLENHALL
MAGNESS CRESCENT

- * Splendidly appointed, considerably improved semi
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £145,000 OFFERS
- * Well equipped refitted kitchen with appliances
- * Excellent refitted bathroom with separate shower outside
- * Concrete print driveway



ESSINGTON
FORREST AVENUE

- * Pleasantly appointed three bedrooms semi
- * Popular Essington village location
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazed windows
- * Refitted dining kitchen inc. viewing essential
- * £142,500 NOW £139,995
- * Appliances
- * Garage and concrete print driveway
- * Upstairs bathroom
- * 16ft extended kitchen



SHORT HEATH
WOODSIDE WAY, THE WOODLANDS

- * Pleasant semi detached property in popular location
- * No two bedrooms, currently two and a dining room (could easily be converted back) to gas central heating
- * £134,995
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * 23ft long lounge/dining room
- * Detached garage
- * Black paved driveway and patio



WILLENHALL
DOVEDALE AVENUE

- * Traditional style semi detached property
- * In need of some modernisation
- * Excellent potential to improve
- * WAS £117,500 NOW £110,000
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Garage and parking
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * No upward chain



COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE

- * Extended modern style town house
- * Four bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Majority double glazed windows
- * £152,500 OFFERS
- * Fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- * Utility room and downstairs WC
- * Garage and concrete print driveway
- * No related chain



ESSINGTON
SHERRINGHAM DRIVE

- * Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- * Popular and much requested location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * £184,950 VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Two reception rooms
- * Fully fitted refitted shower room
- * Fitted garage with electric roller door
- * Lovely established south facing rear garden



ESSINGTON
SHERRINGHAM DRIVE

- * Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- * Popular and much requested location
- * Extended to the rear at ground floor level
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * 16ft extended kitchen
- * 16ft extended dining room
- * £179,950 OFFERS NO CHAIN



NEW INVENTION
JOHN RILEY DRIVE

- * Pleasantly appointed detached family residence
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £149,950
- * Gas central heating
- * Refitted kitchen
- * Fitted bathroom with shower
- * Generous garden to the rear
- * Integral garage



WILLENHALL
LISTER STREET

- * Modern style semi detached property
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £129,950 OFFERS NO CHAIN
- * Two first floor bedrooms and shower room
- * Two reception rooms
- * Principal bathroom
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * Garage and driveway



HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE

- * Modern style semi detached property
- * Alternatively appointed accommodation
- * Two storey side extension
- * Gas central heating
- * Was £142,000 Now £139,950
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Fully fitted refitted bathroom with shower
- * Fitted kitchen with appliances
- * NO CHAIN



COPPICE FARM ESTATE, WILLENHALL
HEBDON GROVE

- * Spacious modern style detached residence
- * Four bedrooms
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Lounge and dining room
- * £210,000
- * Conservatory
- * Through reception hall
- * Garage and black paved driveway
- * Refitted bathroom



NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL
LICHFIELD ROAD

- * Delightful extended detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £189,950 NOW £164,950
- * UPVC double glazing
- * Extended kitchen and dining room
- * Garage and carport
- * Pleasant gardens



WILLENHALL
WAKES CLOSE

- * Much improved modern style town house
- * Two bedrooms
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £102,000 OFFERS
- * Fitted kitchen with a range of appliances
- * Upstairs refitted bathroom with shower
- * Ample off road parking
- * No related chain



WILLENHALL
WHURSTON CLOSE

- * Pleasant extended four bedrooms detached family residence
- * Popular Hadley Heath location
- * Gas central heating
- * £162,500
- * Majority UPVC double glazing
- * Extended lounge and hallway
- * 28ft tandem length garage
- * Fitted kitchen with appliances
- * Garden to front and rear
- * No chain



WEDNESFIELD
ELLARDS DRIVE

- * Pleasantly appointed detached property in popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Lounge
- * Separate dining room
- * £164,950
- * Double glazing and gas central heating
- * Refitted shower room
- * Garden, garage
- * Off road parking



SUMMER HAYES
STIRLING CRESCENT

- * Pleasant semi detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Spacious 17ft rear lounge
- * £127,950 OFFERS
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Bathroom with shower
- * Garage and ample off road parking
- * No upward chain



SNEYD PARK
WITHYWOOD CLOSE

- * Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £147,500 OFFERS
- * Double glazed windows
- * Extended kitchen and dining room
- * Garage and carport
- * Pleasant gardens



WILLENHALL
KINVIER AVENUE

- * Semi detached property situated in popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Was £110,000 Now £104,950 No Chain
- * Lounge and extended sun room
- * 15ft bathroom with shower suite and hob
- * Fitted kitchen with tile rear garden
- * Off road parking
- * Black paved driveway



NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL
LITTLETON ROAD

- * Traditional style mid town house
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazing
- * Offers in excess of £94,950
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Garden to rear
- * Off road parking
- * Internal viewing recommended
- * No chain



WILLENHALL
FARMHOUSE ROAD, CORNER BENTLEY LANE

- * Spacious modern style detached residence
- * Pleasantly appointed accommodation
- * Three bedrooms
- * Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- * Lounge and dining room
- * £167,500
- * UPVC double glazing
- * Fitted kitchen inc oven and hob
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Gas central heating, double glazed windows



WILLENHALL
MAGNESS CRESCENT

- * Pleasantly appointed semi in popular location
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Refitted kitchen including oven, hob and boiler
- * £127,500
- * Fitted bathroom with separate shower outside
- * Spacious L shaped lounge/dining room
- * Garage/shedroom and black paved driveway



WILLENHALL
FURZEBANK WAY, OFF STROUD AVENUE

- * Pleasant semi detached property in corner plot location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazing
- * £124,995 NO CHAIN
- * Double glazed windows
- * Fitted bathroom with shower
- * Appliances
- * Garage and carport
- * Pleasant gardens



COPPICE FARM
TORRIDON ROAD

- * Splendidly appointed modern style bungalow
- * Two bedrooms, both with built-in wardrobes
- * Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- * £155,000 OFFERS
- * Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Fitted kitchen including appliances
- * Fitted bathroom with tile rear garden
- * Black paved driveway
- * Viewing essential



DARLASTON
HEATHFIELD LANE

- * Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- * Ideal for the young family
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas CH + UPVC DG
- * Offers in excess of £105,000
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Garden to rear
- * Off road parking
- * Internal viewing recommended
- * No chain



BENTLEY
POPLAR AVENUE

- * Traditional style semi-detached property
- * Recently repainted accommodation
- * Three bedrooms
- * £94,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC single glazed windows
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Spacious 21ft through lounge
- * Internal viewing recommended



WILLENHALL
NEWLANDS CLOSE

- * Pleasant first floor maisonette
- * Popular and convenient location
- * Cui-de-sac position
- * £67,950 NO CHAIN
- * Two bedrooms
- * UPVC DG windows
- * 16ft rear lounge
- * Bathroom with shower
- * Garage in block to the side



WILLENHALL
BRUNSELL CLOSE

- * Pleasant first floor maisonette in convenient location
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * £67,950 OFFERS
- * Fitted bathroom with white suite and shower
- * Refitted kitchen
- * Allocated parking space

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Home on popular estate a good catch

A MODERN link detached three-bedroomed home set in a popular residential location has come onto the market close to a range of amenities in Willenhall.

The house, in Honeybourne Way on the popular Kingfisher estate, is described as well-maintained by the selling agent, Fraser Wood, which recommends internal viewing to fully appreciate the quality of accommodation on offer.

It is on the market for offers around £169,950 and includes gas central heating, double glazing, a refitted kitchen and bathroom, garage and conservatory.

Upon entry into the reception hall, there's a guest cloakroom leading off with a WC and wash basin.

The front-facing lounge has a feature fireplace with a marble effect surround and hearth and inset gas fire, laminate flooring.

There is an archway through to the dining room, which has sliding

uPVC double-glazed patio doors to the conservatory.

In the kitchen, there's a useful walk-in storage cupboard, a range of fitted matching white faced base and wall units, roll-edged worksurfaces, one-and-a-half bowl stainless steel sink unit.

It has a fitted electric double fan assisted oven, four ring gas hob with extractor hood, integral fridge and freezer, plumbing for a washing machine and ceramic tiled flooring.

Upstairs, two of the three bedrooms include a range of fitted wardrobes with mirrored doors while the tiled bathroom features a refitted white suite consisting of a panelled bath with electric shower over, pedestal wash basin, WC and heated towel rail.

Rear

Outside, the house is set back behind a lawned foregarden and brick paved driveway providing off-road parking and leading to an attached garage with an up-and-over door.

A gate at the side leads to a lawned rear garden with conifer borders and a paved seating area.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, call 01902 367367.



This link detached on the Kingfisher estate, is £169,950. Right: The lounge has a laminate floor and open archway through to the dining room



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Parkfields	Detached with spacious rooms, 3 beds, 2 reception, kitchen extension	£64,000/£69,000
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*Further details of these and other Lots will be published shortly -
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Picanto is raising the bar in the race for space

Time flies and such a lot happens – how can we keep up with everything?

It seems just a short while ago that Kia launched the Picanto in the UK – in fact it was seven years ago back in 2004.

The car impressed a lot of people and it became clear that the Korean manufacturer was beginning on a major move upmarket. It was slow at first but over the past three years things have moved on apace.

Earlier this summer the new Picanto came onto our streets in five-door form and from

By Sharon Walters

September 1 there will be a three-door available – the first time for the Picanto.

It is the Korean manufacturer's smallest car but this second generation proves that such vehicles can offer more of everything without going up in size or in cost.

You get better performance, lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, greater safety, improved quality and the added bonus of Kia's unbeatable seven-year warranty – that's seven years or 100,000 miles on all non-wear-and-tear parts, including labour, subject to terms and conditions.

In addition the warranty is fully transferable to the next owner of the car is sold before the time or mileage limit expires. That's a big plus when you want to sell.

on. And the price? The range starts at £7,995 and the range topper comes in at only £11,195 – and you get a very well equipped car indeed for that.

I recently drove the 1.25 2 EcoDynamics (there are three trim levels simply 1, 2 or 3) which at £10,195 gave me so much in terms of specification I wasn't sure I had the correct price.

Standard features include a height-adjustable seat, a tilt-adjustable steering column, body-coloured bumpers, mirrors and door handles and tinted glass to finish the exterior look.

Cable

Motor-driven power steering is also included as standard on all trim levels. In-car entertainment is provided by a standard RDS radio and CD player with MP3 compatibility. Picanto 1, 1 Air, and 2 have four speakers, and Picanto 3 has six. All versions above Picanto 1, and 1 Air also have USB and AUX ports, an iPod cable and steering-wheel-mounted audio controls.

Picanto 2 has equipment I have rarely seen in this segment including Bluetooth connectivity, with voice recognition and full iPod control with USB and AUX ports – both of which can be operated by the steering-wheel controls – and electrically operated, heated and folding door mirrors with integrated LED side repeaters. Air condition-

ing, rear electric windows, 14-inch alloy wheels, front fog lights, a leather steering wheel and gear lever, an alarm system, premium black upholstery and chrome exterior detailing complete the comprehensive package.

The engine is eager and the gear change and steering are both light and easy.

The ride was good on the 14-inch alloys both on the country roads into work and on the M54 – in fact I was very impressed with the quality of the ride along the motorway and lack of noise, and with the engine's eagerness to please. The engine never felt it had nothing left to give in an emergency.

The new Picanto is only 60mm longer than its predecessor so it still occupies slightly less than 3.6 metres of road space, but an increase of 15mm in wheelbase allied to some very clever packaging ideas have resulted in significantly more cabin space.

Front legroom has increased by 36mm, for example, while luggage capacity is 27 per cent greater at 200 litres.

In a world where the environment plays an increasing role, there was more good news for Kia as the company was awarded an environmental certificate for Picanto by TÜV Nord, an independent technical inspection organisation, in recognition of its strong credentials. The award has also gone to its two other new models this year, the Rio and Optima.



A slight increase in body length has opened up much more interior space



Spec levels are high, offering great value for money



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Official Fuel Economy Figures for the MINI Range: Urban 27.4-67.3 mpg (10.3-4.2 l/100km). Extra Urban 45.6-80.7 mpg (6.2-3.5 l/100km). Combined 36.7-74.3 mpg (7.7-3.8 l/100km). CO2 Emissions 180-99 g/km.

The dealer deposit contribution offer is available on all MINI Countryman models ordered by retail customers between 1 July and 30 September 2011 and registered by 31 October 2011 when financed through MINI Select, subject to availability. Finance example shown is based on a 48 month MINI Select agreement with a contract mileage of 40,000 and an excess mileage charge of 4.5p per mile for a MINI One Countryman at £18,079 specified with optional Pepper Pack at £1,495 and MINI tlc at £249 – service cover for up to 5 years or 50,000 miles. *MINI tlc does not cover maintenance items (e.g. tyres, brake pads and 2nd brake fluid change). **On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 5 year MINI Dealer Warranty, MINI Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates, Pepper Pack, tlc and VAT. Total deposit = customer deposit plus dealer deposit contribution. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18's in the UK only (excluding Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Vehicle conditions and excess mileage charges may apply at the end of your agreement. Prices are correct at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Subject to availability at participating dealerships and withdrawal at any time without notice. †Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Advertised finance is provided by MINI Financial Services (MINI FS). Whilst we have close links with MINI FS and commonly introduce customers to MINI FS, we do not work exclusively with MINI FS. Offer available to retail customer only. ^Test drive subject to applicant status and availability.

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- 60 Corsa 1.2 Energy 3dr hatch, A/C, Alloys, MP3 connection, 5500 miles, White... **£7999**
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- 10 New Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, elec windows, 9500 m, Glac/White... **£10999**
- 10 New Astra 1.4 SRi 5dr hatch, Air con, alloys, 6200 miles, Flame Red... **£11499**
- 10 New Astra 1.7 CDTi SRi 5dr hatch, S/nav, Bluetooth, 8000 m, Silver Lake... **£12499**
- 60 New Astra 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv, Nav, Bluetooth, 10500 miles, Silver Lake... **£13999**
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INSIGNIA

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- 09 Insignia 1.8 SE 5dr, Alloys, DAB radio, 16700 miles, Black... **£10499**
- 58 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr hatch, 18" alloys, Cruise cntrl, 23600 m, Slvr/light... **£11999**
- 09 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SE 5dr hatch, alloys, Sat Nav, 39900 miles, Panacotta... **£11999**
- 10 Insignia 1.8 SRi Sports Tourer, 17" alloys, 17200 miles, Black... **£12999**
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- 57 Astra 1.8 Twintop Sport Auto, Alloys, A/C, 25100 miles, Panacotta... **£7999**
- 08 Astra Twintop 1.8 Sport, A/C, 19800 miles, Star Silver... **£9499**



VXR

- 07 Astra VXR 2.0 3dr, 19" black alloys, 37400 miles, Black Sapphire... **£10999**
- 58 Astra 2.0 VXR 3dr hatch, 18" alloys, cruise control, 32500 miles, Arden Blue... **£11999**
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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 30 September 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.

Low failure rate takes manufacturer to the top of the table with What Car?

Honda wins on reliability



The Jazz won the Supermini class in the JD Power Survey



The British-built Civic came ninth in the Fleet News annual survey

HONDA beat rivals to the top of the What Car? league table thanks to an impressively-low nine per cent failure rate in the first 12 months.

Honda dominated the top of the SUV table with the CR-V and CR-Z at number one and two. Jazz and Accord both came fifth in their respective classes while Civic came third in the small hatchback category.

What Car? editor in chief, Chas Hallett said: "The success of Honda in this year's reliability study is very impressive, especially as this is Honda's sixth overall win as the UK's most reliable car maker."

"Reliability is key for car buyers. The car makers at the bottom of the study have a lot of work to do to catch up with Honda," he added.

What Car? is not the only title to recognise Honda's bullet-proof reliability.

Satisfaction

The 2011 Which? Car survey recently named Honda as the most reliable brand and the 2011 JD Power vehicle ownership satisfaction study saw Honda retain the number two spot in the overall league table – the highest-placed volume manufacturer.

The JD Power Survey awarded Jazz its eighth consecutive win in the supermini class and for the second year running Accord topped the chart in the family car category, while Civic and CR-V were ranked second in their respective classes.

Honda also holds the top spot as Britain's most reliable car manufacturer in the influential FNA5 survey. Honda beat off rivals in this annual survey which is published by industry-leading publication Fleet News.

The report covers 1.5 million vehicles owned or managed by the country's 50 largest contract hire companies. Honda also featured highly in the top ten most reliable cars with the Accord and British-built Civic in second and ninth place respectively.

Dave Hodgetts, the managing director of Honda (UK), said: "We strive to make every second of Honda ownership an enjoyable experience, and that means looking after our drivers throughout their use of our cars."

"This all starts with building reliable and high quality cars that are affordable to run and maintain, but continues with service at our dealers that exceeds expectation."

Suppliers

At the heart of Honda's approach is understanding and meeting customer requirements.

Honda takes a complete approach to build quality and vehicle reliability.

Reliability isn't just a focus during the manufacturing process but also at the research and development stage, during the parts procurement process and is a key part of the work Honda carries out with suppliers.

Only by focussing on vehicle quality throughout the design and build process can Honda deliver such a strong record for cars that just don't go wrong.

Since 2004/05, Honda has had a uniform manufacturing process across the world, meaning that the same models, built in different manufacturing plants, are assembled in an identical fashion.

This helps to deliver consistency in manufacturing activity and output.

Over 80 per cent of the cars Honda sells in the UK are built at its manufacturing facility in Swindon, so the recent reliability survey results reflect the high standards and engineering expertise of the associates at the plant.

"Success in reliability studies further proves the dedication, skill and passion of our engineers, both at the development and manufacturing stages, and we are incredibly proud to be the most reliable manufacturer in the industry – yet again," Mr Hodgetts said.



Honda's CR-V came second in a reliability league table



The Honda CR-Z

Women who fear the dealers

MORE than a third of women say they are likely to get ripped off by car dealers, a poll by retailer Quicks has found. Some 43 per cent feel patronised by dealers. The survey of 1,000 women motorists, showed that more than 40 per cent would not buy a car from a dealer unless they were accompanied by a male.



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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 22.2–61.4 (12.7–4.6), Extra Urban 40.4–67.3 (7.0–4.2), Combined 31.0–64.2 (9.1–4.4). CO2 emissions: 215–101 g/km. Price Points: £11,735 applies to Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and includes metallic paint; £12,995 applies to Civic 1.4 Type S i-Shift and excludes metallic paint (£440 extra); £22,365 applies to CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC SE Manual and includes metallic paint; £18,135 applies to CR-Z 1.5 i-VTEC IMA S Manual and includes metallic paint. Offers valid on new retail cars registered from 1 July to 30 September 2011 and *excludes Jazz Hybrid. **Honda Hire Purchase:** Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** 4 years free servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first and includes a maximum of 4 services. Free servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only. **Roadside Assistance:** Covers the vehicle and authorised drivers for 4 years emergency breakdown, subject to the vehicle being maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule.

Hyundai wipes drivers' blues with new fuel-sipping model



Low emissions and excellent fuel economy are a bonus

FOLLOWING on from the successful i10 Blue launched at the beginning of the year, Hyundai has added another sub-100g/km CO2 model to its range – the i20 Blue.

With emissions of 98g/km, it is Hyundai UK's lowest emitting vehicle. The i20 Blue is based on the current i20 Comfort trim level, mated to the 1.4 CRDI 90PS engine, and is priced at £13,195 on-the-road.

To achieve the CO2 figures, the i20 Blue has the following Blue Drive technologies: Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG), low rolling resistance tyres, rear suspension under cover and rear-wheel deflector. With these, the i20 Blue achieves a 12 per cent reduction in emissions (compared to the current 1.4 CRDI 90PS Style i20 model) from 111g/km to 98g/km.

Drivers of the i20 Blue won't need to make regular visits to a fuel station. The 1.4 CRDI Euro V compliant four-cylinder engine achieves 76.4mpg combined – the kind of cheap-to-run credentials that are important as the cost of motoring continues to rise. This is a 14 per cent improvement on the combined cycle compared to the i20 1.4 CRDI 90PS Style model.

To put these figures into perspective, it would cost approximately £63 to fill up the i20 Blue with diesel for a range of 755 miles. As well as excellent fuel economy, the i20 Blue also gains exemption from VED and the London Congestion Charge as it emits less than 100g/km.

The i20 Blue's standard equipment includes 15-inch alloy wheels, Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, electric heated and folding door mirrors, electric front and rear windows, steering wheel audio controls, USB and aux connections, air conditioning and remote central locking.

Sitting alongside the i10 Blue, the new i20 Blue model demonstrates Hyundai's continuous commitment to increasing the efficiency of both its petrol and diesel engines.

On-sale now, and like all Hyundai passenger cars, the Hyundai i20 Blue comes with a Five Year Triple Care package, which includes a five-year, unlimited mileage, manufacturer backed warranty, five years of roadside assistance and five years of annual vehicle health checks.

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N Reg	LANDROVER DISCOVERY 2.5 TDI DIESEL 7 SEATER	SAVE £200 NOW £2495
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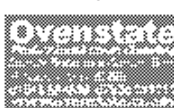
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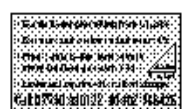


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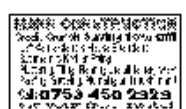
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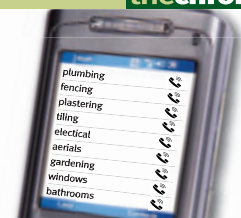
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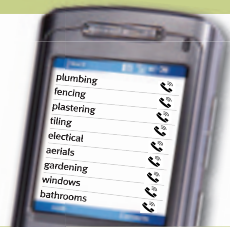
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SPORT

thechronicle



Rushall newcomer Danny Bragioli (right) with Kieran O'Connell

So far so good as Pics battle back for point

RUSHALL Olympic continued their solid start to life in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League after fighting back to claim a share of the spoils against a useful Mickleover Sports outfit at Dales Lane.

Following the superb opening day draw at Chester FC, the hosts lined up against their Derbyshire opponents with some enforced changes as Chris Morris and Anthony Maguire came in for the injured Ahmed Obeng and Nick Amos, while Grant Beckett replaced Louis Keenan.

After a quiet opening some sloppy marking cost the Pics on 17 minutes. The visitors were given far too much time and space deep in Rushall territory and as the ball was squared from the left

RUSHALL OLYMPIC 1 MICKLEOVER SPORTS 1

to Danny Martin the midfielder had ample freedom to manoeuvre inside and unleash a curling 30-yard drive that flew past keeper Chris Gemmell into the net.

It could have been far worse for the hosts five minutes later, but Martin dragged a 25-yard strike well wide as Olympic's defence opened up.

Rushall finally began to find their feet as the half hour approached and a spectacular overhead kick from Maguire caused problems in the visitors' penalty area. Rushall pressed again when Matt Lewis squared the ball to Danny Bragioli whose goal-bound effort was frantically repelled at the last second.

The Pics started the second period in a more positive frame of mind and Beckett's centre from the left by-line to the far post picked out Lewis who planted a firm downward header from 12 yards that had to be cleared.

Wastefully

Chris Morris then broke dangerously through the right channel and despite the obvious lack of support the front-runner cut inside and forced keeper Alessandro Baccherini into a fine parry.

A good centre from the left by sub Jon Patrick picked out Sean Platt, but the wing-back could only blaze wastefully over from just outside the box.

On 73 minutes, the never-say-die attitude of Maguire reaped huge rewards as

the midfielder chased a seemingly lost cause down the left flank.

With Sports defence under increasing pressure the danger, keeper Baccherini could only slice the ball to Lewis 25 yards from goal. The front-runner took aim and then lifted a sublime lob back over the keeper's head, deservedly restoring parity.

Rushall Olympic: Gemmell, Skedgel, Smith, Tolley, Platt, Beckett, Blythe, Bragioli (Patrick 66), Lewis, Morris (Bannister 84), Maguire.

Mickleover Sports: Baccherini, Leigh (Strykowski 65), Guy, Walshe, Kellogg (Beardsley 76), Roulson, Graves, Martin, Ashton, O'Connell, Simpson.

Referee: Ms. S. Thringova

Dolphins smiling in triumph

AVFC 06 put their first win on the board in the Leisure Leagues Walsall's 6 a side Monday top flight, and did so in style with a 7-2 hammering of Bloxwich Youth. Chad Wells was man of the match.

Miami Dolphins made it two wins on the spin as Lee Evans orchestrated a commanding 4-1 defeat of Coppice. Do You Think You Saw Us boast the same record at the sharp end of Division One, Aaron Goodall putting 5 Fields to the sword 6-0.

FC Basil Fawley were in devastating form, slamming eight past Celtegg without reply, Dave London with the man of the match display.

No Lighty No Likey went one better in the final tier, stuffing Everybody Loves Keown 9-0.

Plaudits

Sheffield Thursday climbed to the summit of the Thursday 6 a side Premier Division, leapfrogging Sallyodder in a commanding 4-1 win, with Ryan Jackson taking the plaudits.

A Matt Reid-inspired Sportif Beacon eased past Youth Hated by the same scoreline, 4-1.

Ashley Stanton was the stand-out for Division One table toppers FC Madrid 11 as they hit Lokomotiv Kajal 6-1. Sheffield Wednesday lead the chasing pack after a 3-0 win over The White Horse.

Touch rugby takes a hold

WITH the Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand beginning next month, the level of interest in the sport is increasing, so Bloxwich RFC is calling on everyone to get into the spirit by trying out a non-contact version - Touch Rugby.

Touch rugby can be played by all ages with mixed gender teams. The simplicity of the rules allows players to self-referee matches and play pretty much anywhere.

Bloxwich RFC will be running a touch rugby event for ages 15+ this Saturday, August 27, from 12-4pm at King George V Playing Fields, Stafford Road. Email bloxwichrf@gmail.com or use Facebook to accept the invitation.

Anguish as two-goals lead turns into defeat

DEFEATED but not deflated, Saddlers left Sheffield United's Bramall Lane ground with plenty of plaudits despite an agonising late reverse. Written off by Blades boss Danny Wilson beforehand, the Saddlers proceeded to give them an almighty scare.

Wilson gave them no chance but Walsall proved they could mix it with the supposed cream of League One. The disappointment was palpable after squandering a 2-0 lead, but with the frustration comes pride.

Boss Dean Smith remains on a steep learning curve and he will have been joined by his players after their efforts went without reward.

Commitment, desire and quality are evident and while they tossed away a position of supremacy there is plenty to be proud of.

Organisation is the buzz word in League One, consistency will follow and success is a by-product of that.

The Saddlers have threatened to find that elusive consistency as they quietly go about their business.

Dominated

For the first hour they dominated. United had no answer to their crisp passing, work rate and efficiency.

Goals from Kevan Hurst and Will Grigg only confirmed their supremacy. The quality was there and had they got the luck and the decisions they would have claimed a great victory.

United right-back Matt Lowton - who started the comeback - should have been sent off for a lunge on Mat Sadler while Sadler can feel aggrieved at conceding an match-winning penalty.

It was the third game in succession

SHEFFIELD UNITED 3 WALSALL 2

Walsall were left bemoaning key decisions - despite Andy Butler winning his appeal against his Hartlepool red card.

It meant Walsall remained unchanged and they had a distinct air of self-confidence. Cool in possession and robust in the tackle, the organised visitors impressed.

Macken came agonisingly close to a deserved opener when his 12-yard effort was magnificently tipped onto the bar by Steve Simonsen on 27 minutes.

Just 20 seconds after the break Hurst broke down the left, cut inside and found the corner from 20-yards - with Simonsen losing the ball in flight. Six minutes later it was 2-0 when, following Simonsen's fine stop from Macken, the goalkeeper flapped at a corner and Grigg smashed in.

Walsall were in total control but Lowton pulled one back just before the hour, tapping in Stephen Quinn's cutback, and then Lee Williamson equalised from 20 yards.

Lifted, United sensed blood and they won the game 16 minutes from time when Williamson went down softly under Sadler's challenge and Cresswell slammed in the penalty.

The Saddlers came agonisingly close to a deserved leveller when Hurst's deflected shot bobbed against the post, with Simonsen stranded.

Sheffield United: Simonson, Lowton, Collins, Maguire, Lescinel, Mendez-Laing (Williamson 58), McDonald (Doyle, 52), Montgomery, Quinn; Cresswell, Slew.

Walsall: Walker, Westlake, Butler, Lancashire, Sadler, Gnaka (Nicholls 69), Taundry, Peterlin, Hurst (Hurst 83), Grigg, Murr (Hurst 83).

Attendance: 16,443.



That's two - Will Grigg doubles Walsall's lead after the keeper spilled a shot

Runaway triumph for Walsall's ace Freddie

FREDDIE Sheridan-Mills enhanced his growing reputation with a four-shot demolition of the field to claim the Staffordshire Open.

The 19-year-old, a member at Walsall Golf Club, returned a two-round total of 138 (70, 68) last week to leave a top quality field of local amateurs and professionals in his wake.

And the success story for Walsall did not end there, with fellow Broadway stars Henry Sheridan-Mills (147) and Lewis Pearce (147) also figuring prominently in the event hosted by Great Barr Golf Club.

Whitewash

"It was a particularly rewarding victory after all the hard work I had put in beforehand," said Freddie. "I knew that my game was in decent order."

Freddie, a former pupil at Willenhall School Sports College, will now turn his attention towards experiencing European Tour School qualification for the first time.

His week to remember didn't end there. Walsall's Scratch Team contin-



Freddie Sheridan-Mills and trophy

ued their remarkable first season in West Midlands League Division One with a stunning 8-0 whitewash of Kings Norton at Broadway.

Winners for the hosts were Freddie Sheridan-Mills (3&2), Henry Sheridan-Mills (4&3), Lewis Pearce (4&3), George Dukes (6&5), James Mercurio (5&4), Dan Sutton (5&4), Adam Fray (7&6) and James Hateley (5&4).

CRICKET

Skipper's six of the best in win

BLOXWICH 213-6 BEAT CANNOCK & RUGELEY 212 AO

SKIPPER Danny King won the toss, opted for Bloxwich to field against Cannock & Rugeley, and took six wickets, writes Rachael Baker.

There was a great effort from Andrew McAree who came back to keeping after a couple of weeks away, which backed up the bowling performances of Aaron Alcock, Pirmjit Singh, Lee Bates, Danny King and Thom Fellows.

Wickets fell thick and fast with Bates taking three and King an impressive six as Bloxwich bowled out C&R for 212 in 49 overs.

At the crease, there were equally outstanding performances from the Bloxwich batsmen.

Openers King and John Ackrill put on 21 and there were also valiant efforts from Singh, John Darby, Bates and Fellows.

They were followed by Jeremy Scott (41 not out) and Alcock, who knocked up an impressive 47, including three massive six-hits.

CANNOCK & RUGELEY 2NDS 158 LOST TO BLOXWICH 2NDS 160-8 BY TWO WICKETS

THE visitors were soon on top thanks to the ever reliable Simon Langston (2-27) ably supported by Adam Baker (3-46), writes Emrys Evans.

Had it not been for Paul Beech (44) C&R would have been in even deeper trouble. As it was, his knock along with support from the lower order saw them to 158.

In reply, the visiting batsmen found life just as difficult and were reeling on 60-6 when Golder was joined at the crease by the returning Mark Swinton.

Together they were to swing the match back into the visitors' favour with 34 and 33 respectively.

Ton for Manuel

WALSALL 290-8 HIMLEY 268-9

OPENER Jack Manuel's 108 for Walsall, followed by 4-71 for Colin Griggs, saw the visitors halt Birmingham & District Premier League title chasers Himley with a winning draw.

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PAGE 51
FOR ...

UNKIND
CUT FROM
BLADES

PICS MAKE
POINT IN
STRUGGLE

GOLFER
FREDDIE
IS CHAMP

WALSALL CHARGE STILL ON COURSE

Cup of woe as Wood fail to catch fire

STUDLEY TOWN 2 WALSALL WOOD 1

A STRANGELY subdued Wood exited this season's FA Cup by conceding two second half goals, *writes Bill Shaw.*

A late header by Mark Bandurak gave them hope and Jordan Nadat fired in on 90 minutes, but it was ruled offside.

It was a typical cup tie start with both sides playing at 100mph, but it wasn't until the 14th minute that either goal was threatened when the Wood defence presented the ball to Paul Dowsett wide on the left. He cut in and his low drive brought a full length save.

Three minutes later, a right wing free kick was hit beyond the far post, Matthew Collins headed the ball back across goal and with Neil Reeves beaten, Richard Deeming cleared the ball off the line.

From a throw, the ball was played into the path of Dowsett to hit a first time effort inches wide. Two minutes later Wood skipper Stuart Cox raced back to head the ball back to Reeves to deny Dowsett and Jamie Bailey.

The last goalmouth action of the half followed neat football wide on the right. Bailey's cross was touched away by Tom Howard into the path of Thomas Lacey and his goalbound effort deflected for a corner.

With 52 minutes gone, Bailey crossed from wide on the right and Howard read the bounce of the ball to deny the ever dangerous Dowsett.

Deserved

Another Studley attack on 58 minutes finally broke the deadlock. Bailey won a right wing free kick which he delivered to the near post, and Scott Turner turned the ball home.

From a keeper's kick Mark Bandurak touched the ball on to Jordan Nadat, he showed good close control before rolling a cross shot wide of keeper Perry Cox and the post. On 71 minutes, after Wood had lost Stuart Cox to a second yellow card, it was Scott Cooper racing through from midfield and finding Nadat who lost his marker. Cox saved his low drive at the second attempt.

A minute later a neat move involving Bandurak and Nadat saw the latter lay the ball back to Ian Purvey and his low drive brought a full length save from Cox.

Reeves saved well from Dowsett on 77 minutes, his clearance to halfway was played back into the left of the box and Lacey was denied again by Reeves.

A Wood attack broke down on 81 minutes and David Edwards hit a 70-yard crossfield ball to put Bailey clear. He rolled the ball across the face of the Wood box and Dowsett fired home Studley's second from 15 yards.

It took Wood just two minutes to get back into the game. Nadat was fouled on the right of the box and he took the free kick himself, delivering the ball to the far post where Bandurak headed home.

On 90 minutes Nadat raced on to a ball on the left of box and fired past the advancing Cox only for the goal to be chalked off by an offside flag.

Wood played better with 10 men, but the home side kept them under pressure for most of the game and probably just deserved to progress into the next round.

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WALSALL 1 YEovil TOWN 1

ANDY Butler has warned that Walsall haven't hit top gear and declared: "We're the real deal." The captain reckons the Saddlers' young guns will improve.

Confidence is high despite Saddlers blowing another promising lead to draw 1-1 with Yeovil last Saturday. The Saddlers have scored first in their first four League One games this season, but have secured the three points just once.

But Butler insisted that the single defeat – an unlucky 3-2 loss at Sheffield United – proves Walsall can compete.

He said: "It shows we're not a flash in the pan – we're the real deal. We're going to work for each other, the gaffer, Whits (Jon Whitney) and Chris (Nicholl).

"They'll strive to improve us and I'm sure we'll get better.

"We're a young team. Whits said we've got an average age of 23 so we've got players who will learn and make us a better team and better players.

"We're not the finished article but if we keep putting in performances then we'll do well this year. We've had some decisions go against us but we've only been beaten once."

Jon Macken's cracker against Yeovil was cancelled out by Gavin Williams' leveller, and Butler said: "People expected us to come and wallop Yeovil but we looked a bit leggy," said the 27-year-old.

"We weren't as free-flowing as we'd like to be but we limited them to two shots.

Creativity

"We're a different team to last year. It's a close-knit squad and the team spirit is brilliant.

After losing more leads than an absent-minded dog walker, the Saddlers were again left to rue another missed opportunity against Yeovil on Saturday.

For the most part Walsall struggled to recapture the spark which has been a feature in the opening games. Boss Dean Smith admitted afterwards his men were flat. They lacked the tempo which had served them well so far.

Gavin Williams' goal, after the defence allowed Paul Wotton's ball to bounce, was a case in point. Smith dismissed the notion it was naivety and strictly put it down to "bad defending".

Claude Gnaka is a player who will frustrate and excite but he was at his exasperating best against the Glovers.

He may have claimed an assist but more is needed from the affable Frenchman, Jon Macken and Will Grigg's partnership is

Yeovil @expressandstar.co.uk

blossoming and they have three goals in three games between them – but neither is jet-heeled.

The raw Jamie Paterson is an option but nous is needed to push Walsall forward. Centrally, Adam Chambers is available for Saturday's trip to Bournemouth after suspension and the re-born Richard Taundry has been a star performer but creativity is missing.

Macken's 19th-minute, 20-yard opener exuded quality but it was a rare moment of class. Williams prodded in just before the break for Town as Saddlers switched off.

Darryl Westlake and Ryan Jarvis came close to a winner.

Afterwards, manager Dean Smith dismissed any concerns about Walsall's failure to hold on to their leads.

"It happens in football. There'll be plenty of times where we don't lead and go on to get a result," he said.

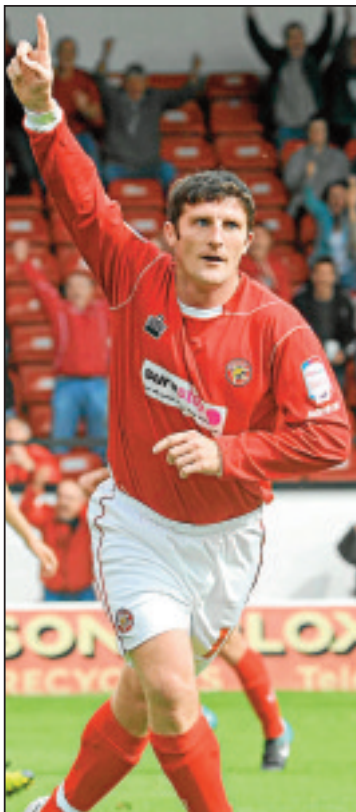
"Sometimes we went for the harder ball. It's about keeping it a bit simple and sticking to the game plan."

Walsall: Walker, Westlake, Lancashire, Butler, Sadler, Gnaka, Taundry, Peterlin, Hurst (Nicholls 46), Macken (Jarvis 80), Grigg

Yeovil Town: Steer, Huntington, Ehmer, Ayling; N'Gala (Haynes-Brown, 51), Upson, Williams, G, Wotton, O'Brien (Edgar, 69), Obika, Williams, A (Fallon, 76).

Referee: Darren Drysdale (Lincolnshire).

Attendance: 4,247



That's 1-0 ... striker Jon Macken and the Walsall fans celebrate his better against Yeovil Town



The Yeovil Town goal gapes and Ryan Jarvis is inches away from grabbing victory at the death



Aerial combat for Walsall's Will Grigg against Yeovil defender Paul Huntington



Walsall skipper Andy Butler is at full stretch to deny Paul Wotton at the Banks's Stadium



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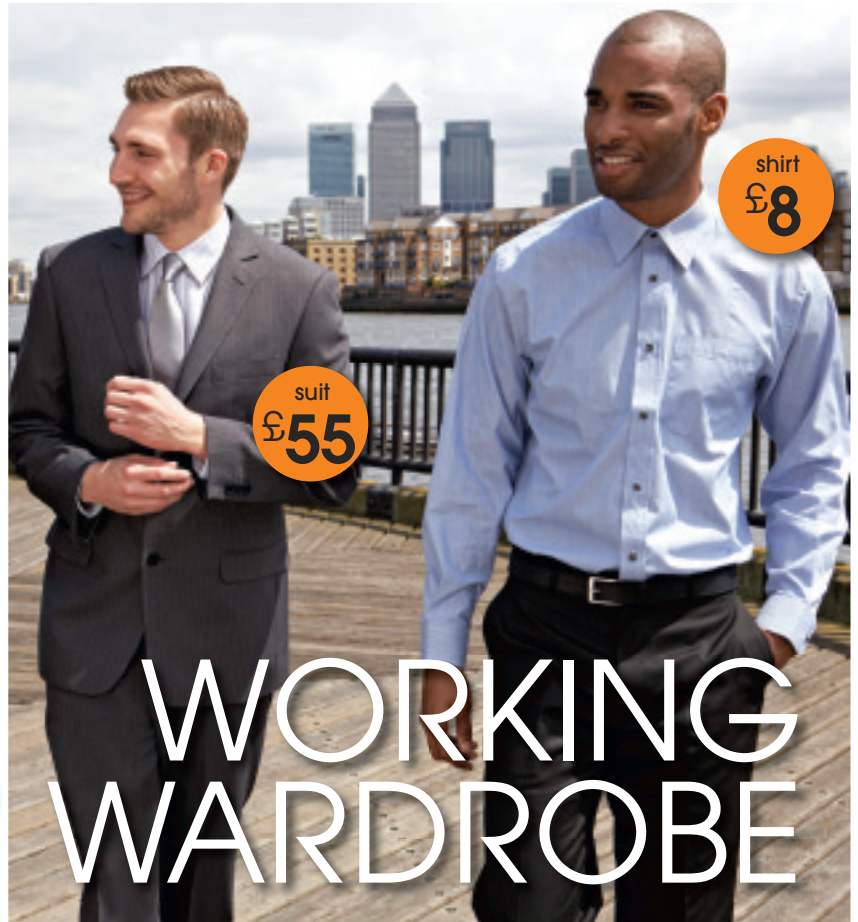
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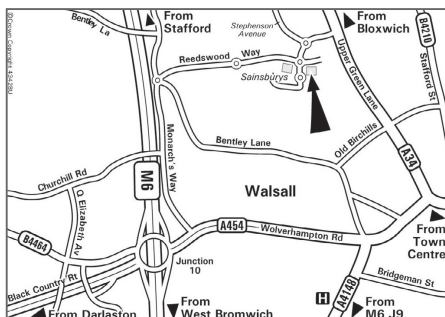
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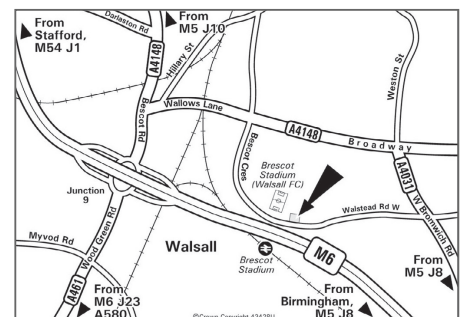


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